

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.85
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/11/2011

PLAN TO BRING BACK INDIAN SCIENTISTS

*85. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has drawn any plan to attract and bring back Indian scientists working abroad to pursue scientific research in the country in their respective fields of work;
- (b) if so, the details including the cost thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken so far in this direction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

(ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 85 FOR 28.11.2011 REGARDING “PLAN TO BRING BACK INDIAN SCIENTISTS”

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir, Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing initiatives to bring back and attract Indian scientists working abroad to pursue scientific research in India in their respective field of work as well in home country research programs. The details are as follows:

Department of Science and Technology (DST)- Ramanujan Fellowship Program for Indian brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world, especially those who wish to return to India, to take up scientific research positions at any of the scientific institutions and universities in India. All areas of science are covered under this Fellowship and the Fellowship is given for 5 years duration with fellowship of Rs. 75,000 consolidated per month and a contingent grant of Rs.5 lakhs per year. Since inception 266 applications have been received and 102 Indian origin scientists working abroad have been offered this “Fellowship”.

Department of Science and Technology (DST)- Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme “Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)” offers a contractual research positions at any Indian reputed institution/academia of their choice to Indian citizens and people of Indian origin including NRI/PIO status with PhD (in science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture related subjects) from any recognized university in the world. This scheme offers young achievers an opportunity for independent research in the near term and emerge as a future leader in the long term . The scheme requires applicants to be in the age group of 27-32 years. This Scheme provides a provision of maximum 1000 INSPIRE Faculty positions per year. The INSPIRE Faculty position is for a maximum period of 5 (five) years. Each selected INSPIRE Faculty shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor of an IIT as Fellowship amount. In addition, a Research Grant of Rs 7 lakh per year for 5 years shall also be provided to each successful candidate. Of the 455 applications received in the first

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announcement under this scheme, 34 are from people of Indian origin including NRI/PIO status with PhD.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) - “Collaborative Projects with Scientist and Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad (CP-STIO)” for strengthening institutional and human capacity building, enhancing technology entrepreneurship and augmenting stronger alma-mater relationship. There is a provision to sponsor upto 20 joint projects annually based on a Call for Proposal. In this program, collaborative project based visit of STIO into India_ (1 per year of 2-12 week duration) are co-funded by DST and Indian partnering and beneficiary host institution. While DST covers return air travel cost, and honorarium for 2-12 week (@US\$ 2000 for 2 week followed by additional US\$ 500 for every fortnight with maximum of US\$4500 for 12 week stay in India), and accommodation and local travel borne by Indian partnering and beneficiary host institution. Typically around 125 applications are received per call for proposals. So far, 37 joint projects involving STIOs abroad have been sponsored by DST.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) –Senior Research Associateship (SRA) Scheme aims at attracting Indian nationals as well as Indian scientists working abroad to work in India for 3 years. The candidates selected under this scheme are appointed in the scale of Scientist B (PB-III Grade Pay Rs.5400 for natural sciences degree holders & Grade Pay Rs. 6600 for medical and engineering science degree holders). For the period 2001-2011, 282 SRA appointments have been made.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - “Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship” for Indian nationals who are working overseas institutions/universities in various fields of biotechnology and life sciences and are interested in return to India to pursue their research interests at any of the scientific institutions/ universities initially for 5 years. Ramalingaswami Re-entry fellows would also be eligible for regular research grant through extramural and other research schemes

of various S&T agencies of the Government of India. This program provides for upto 50 fellowships annually. Fellowship awardees is given Rs. 75,000/ pm, House Rent Allowance of Rs. 7,500/- p.m. as well as a research /contingency grant of Rs.500,000 per annum. From 2007 onwards, so far 348 applications have resulted in selection of 97 Indian scientists working abroad for “Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowships” and 70 of them have already relocated to Indian host institutions.

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - Welcome Trust (WT) Alliance Aims at encouraging scientists of Indian origin working abroad to return to India through four tier fellowship program on biomedical research at post doctoral level (Senior Fellowship, Intermediate Fellowship, Early Career Fellowship, Margadarshi Fellowship). DBT & WT have committed Pound Sterling 8 M each year for a period of 5 years from 2009 onwards. The total award for a Senior Fellowship typically amounts to INR 4.5 Crores; for an Intermediate Fellowship amounts to INR 3.5 Crores; and for Early Career Fellowship amounts to INR 1.5 Crores. Upto 70 fellowships are available. Since inception, 780 applications have been received and 52 Indian origin scientists working abroad have been selected for this DBT-Welcome Trust Fellowship.
