

- (b) what is the time-frame for approval of these applications;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is a huge delay in clearing such applications; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the department to speed up these approvals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) received 257 in-house R&D recognition applications from industries, on an average for approval during a calendar year, during the last three years.

(b) The approval of these applications requires a time frame of 16 weeks, on an average. The approval process involves, examination of application within the department for completeness, circulation to relevant government departments and experts for technical inputs, seeking clarifications from the applicants, recommendations by an interdepartmental screening committee set up for the purpose and finally, approval by the competent authority in the department.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The steps being taken in the department to further speed up these approvals include, making the application formats short and concise, accepting and processing applications on-line, obtaining inputs from experts in a structured format, circulation of meeting agenda to the screening committee and conveying approvals to the applicants electronically.

#### **Status of project proposals of Madhya Pradesh**

†1997. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals received by Government from Madhya Pradesh during the last five years under different Government schemes and programmes and the date of their receipt;
- (b) the date of sanctioning proposals out of the received proposals and the number of such sanctioned proposals and the amount released for them;
- (c) the details of such proposals which have not been sanctioned by Government so far and the reasons for their pendency; and
- (d) by when, these pending proposals would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology in the Union

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government has been receiving a number of proposals from Research and Development institutions, universities, voluntary organizations, State Science and Technology (S&T) Councils and other autonomous organizations from various States including Madhya Pradesh seeking funding support under different schemes and programmes. These proposals go through competitive evaluation before sanctioning the proposals. Department of Science and Technology is maintaining a database on Extramural Research and Development Projects approved for funding by Central Government Agencies and Departments. According to this available official statistics, the number of such projects funded during the last five years in Madhya Pradesh is as given below:

Financial Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of approved projects	40	46	111	59	51
Approved cost (Rs. in lakhs)	657.99	836.57	940.84	688.23	638.21

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### INSPIRE scheme

1998. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has initiated INSPIRE Scholarship Scheme to promote scientific attitude among children; and

(b) if so, the number of students of Punjab rewarded under the scheme, so far, and the amount distributed among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology under this Ministry has initiated two inter-related schemes namely 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)' and the 'Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)' which aim to promote scientific attitude among children, attract students to study science and pursue careers in research. The 'Scholarship for Higher Education' provides scholarship for pursuing science at under-graduate level based on the performance (top 1%) at the Class XII Board examinations.

(b) During the last three years of implementation of the scheme: SHE, 45 INSPIRE Scholarships have been awarded to the students of the state of Punjab based on their performance at the Board examination and so far about Rs. 52 lakh has also been disbursed to these students. In addition, under the INSPIRE Scheme, INSPIRE Awards to 10599 students @