

pension amount is to be credited, where feasible, into a post office or public sector bank account of the beneficiary. Necessary instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to all Scheduled Commercial banks except the RRBs, to make available a basic banking 'no-frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges. Also the Post Office Savings Accounts Rules 1961 has been modified to allow beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) to open a post office account with nil deposit.

(d) to (f) Schemes under NSAP have been transferred to state plan *w.e.f.* financial year 2002-03. Implementation of the schemes at ground level which include sanctioning and disbursement of benefits rests with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the payment of pension in many States/UTs is done on a monthly basis. No instances of commission being collected for clearing of the cheques issued have been brought to the knowledge of this Ministry.

#### **Plan to bring back Indian scientists**

†2313. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of scientists working abroad;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any policy to recall these scientists: and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):  
(a) Sir, the Ministry of Science and Technology does not maintain any database on number of scientists, working abroad.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the provisions contained in the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2013 and Science and Technology Chapter of XIIth 2012-2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing various initiatives, as given below, to attract Indian scientists working abroad in their respective field of expertise and connect them to home country Science and Technology (S&T) institutions and programmes.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- A. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been implementing schemes to encourage researchers and scientists working abroad to find work opportunities in India:
- (i) "Ramanujan Fellowships" to attract brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India. The Ramanujan Fellows can work in any of the scientific institutions and universities in the country and they are eligible for receiving regular research grants through the extramural funding schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India... The duration of Ramanujan Fellowship is five years. The value of the fellowship is Rs.75, 000/- per month for five years. Each Fellow, in addition, receives a Research Grant of Rs.5.00 lakh per annum. Since inception, 184 Indian origin scientists working abroad have been offered this "Fellowship".
  - (ii) "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" Faculty Award under 'Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC)' scheme initiated in July, 2011 provides opportunity to the scientists within 32 years of age and who have completed their doctoral research from any recognized university/academic institution in the world. Each "INSPIRE Faculty Awardee" receives a consolidated amount equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor of an IIT as Fellowship amount with Rs.7 lakh per year as Research Grant for 5 years. Since inception, 33 people of Indian origin including NRIs having PhD degrees have been selected for award so far.
- B. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been implementing schemes to encourage researchers and scientists working abroad to find work opportunities in India:
- (i) Wellcome-DBT India Alliance: Biomedical Research Fellowship Career Programme: DBT has entered into an alliance with Wellcome Trust (WT) to launch a three-tier fellowship programme on biomedical research at post-doctoral level. The programme has been established since September 2009 with the approval of the Cabinet and functions as the Wellcome-Trust DBT Indian Alliance

registered as a Trust. The Department of Biotechnology and the Wellcome Trust each have committed Pounds Sterling 8 million per year, for a period of ten years. The fellowship funding programme is established to attract a strong cohort of qualified scientists working abroad to seek career opportunities in India. So far 64 fellowship awards have been granted of which 30 have been from the best overseas laboratories and are now located at various Indian institutes.

- (ii) Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship: The scheme was initiated in 2006 by DBT for Indian scientists who are working in overseas institutions/universities and would like to return to India to pursue their research interests. The fellowship is given for a period of five years initially and could also be considered for another term based on a fresh appraisal depending upon the progress made. Under the scheme each awardee receives a fellowship amount of Rs 75,000 per month (consolidated), House Rent Allowance Rs 7,500 pm and research/contingency grant of Rs 5.00 lakhs per year but this year onwards (2012-13) the research/contingency grant has been increased from Rs 5.00 lakhs to Rs 10.00 lakhs for first year, Rs 7.5 lakhs for 2nd year and Rs 5.00 lakhs third year onwards. So far 147 scientists have been selected in the last five batches and 102 fellows from overseas laboratories have been relocated to various Indian host institutes. This year (2012-13) we have received 136 applications and are being reviewed and up to 50 candidates will be selected.

- C. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has conceptualized and made operational a scheme to attract scientists/technologists of Indian origin (STIOs), who are given a designation of "Outstanding Scientists, STIO". They are appointed at an identified CSIR laboratory so as to nurture a research field in their area of expertise.

#### **National laboratories**

2314. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish network of national laboratories in all States in the country to ensure equitable scientific progress in each state; and