

The remaining unutilized amount of Rs. 378.73 crore in the above projects / schemes has been returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(d) No new major committees have been constituted in the last two years although a few project based expert committees have been constituted to review and monitor the new as well as the ongoing projects.

Women Scientist Scheme

1778. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated 'Women Scientist Scheme';

(b) if so, the details of the women scientists enrolled under this scheme from the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the details of their area of research activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology has started Women Scientist Scheme for unemployed women in the year 2002 to provide opportunities to women scientists and technologists having break-in-career.

(b) and (c) As per the latest Official Statistics available (01.04.2014), the details of Women Scientists from Tamil Nadu enrolled under the scheme in last five years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Women Scientists from Tamil Nadu	Areas of Research
1.	2009-10	25	Life Sciences, Physical and Mathematical Sciences,
2.	2010-11	16	Chemical Sciences,
3.	2011-12	31	Engineering Sciences, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
4.	2012-13	21	
5.	2013-14	34	

Shortage of qualified scientists

1779. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of qualified scientists for undertaking research and

development work in various research institutions/laboratories in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of scientists in various research institutions/laboratories under Government have resigned to join more remunerative positions in private sector and also gone abroad, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to retain scientists in these institutions and also to prevent their migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of qualified scientists for research and development in various research institutions/laboratories under various departments of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

(b) and (c) The exodus of scientists has not been sizeable and is therefore not a matter of concern. As such no statistics have been maintained to allow for specific steps to be taken to prevent their migration. Besides the research positions in public institutions have gained further attractiveness following the revision of salaries and promotional avenues of scientists in the Sixth Pay Commission. This is evident from the 75% increase in extramural Research and Development (R&D) Projects in the country from 3,336 in 2006-07 to 5,855 in 2010-11. The monthly emoluments of fellowships for research fellows have increased by 100% from ₹ 8,000/- per month in 2007 to ₹ 16,000/- per month in 2010. Further, since 2006 onwards, 570 scientists of Indian origin working abroad, including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) having Ph.D. degrees, have been offered to join Indian scientific institutions under schemes such as Ramanujan Fellowship, INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Faculty Award) and Ramalingaswami Fellowships for undertaking research in the country. In view of the demand of research professionals going up, the absorption capacity has increased manifold with the setting up of new institutes such as Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) followed by successive increase in plan allocations for scientific departments etc.

Research and Development Institutions

1780. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research and development institutions under the Ministry, and the number of scientists and technologists working therein, the number of the posts that are vacant now;