

Advanced studies in STEM

2809. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to spend 2.4 million dollars on advanced studies in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) by outstanding Indian students at the Carnegie Mellow University (CME), US and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether an agreement was signed between Indian Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and CMU, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether through this programme, Indian scholars will be able to pursue research in frontier areas which are of relevance to India and also address many of the 21st century human challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to support a minimum of 5 outstanding Indian students per year for doctoral research in identified areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at CMU. SERB, through the MoU, proposes to spend 2.4 million dollars and CMU will spend at least 5 million dollars on Indian students who will be selected during 2016-17 to 2020-21. This Overseas Doctoral Fellowship programme is aimed at building national capacity where the talent supply of researchers in areas of interest to the country is sub-critical.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Program in the long run will create critical mass of performing scientists in niche areas where there is shortage of scientists in the country. The country can also utilize the expertise gained by these young scientists to strengthen/initiate national programmes in the domain knowledge of interest to the country. It is envisaged that through this programme, Indian scholars will be able to pursue research in frontier areas which are of relevance to India and also address many of the 21st century human challenges.

National Science and Technology Policy

2810. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of formulating a National Science and Technology policy; and