

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the funds were not released due to complaints from various quarters, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reason for the funds not being released to State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry releases funds to the States based on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget (LB), opening balance, pending liabilities of the previous year for the financial year, if any, and overall performance. The fund release for implementation of MGNREGA to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is making funds available keeping in view the demand. Central fund released to Andhra Pradesh for the last FY 2016-17 and current FY 2017-18 (as on 31.01.2018) is ₹ 3940.21 & ₹ 4811.06 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) Complaints of irregularities in implementation of MGNREGA in States/UTs are received in the Ministry. Since the responsibility of implementation of MGNREGA is vested with the State Governments/UTs, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for complaint redressal have also been issued to all States/UTs.

Thrust for 'original ideas' in inspire programme

292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Innovation of Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme has been modified with a thrust to 'original ideas' having potential for social needs through science and technology;
- (b) if so, how many 'original ideas' have been targetted for a financial year and the amount that has been fixed for such an award; and
- (c) what is the criteria that has been adopted by Government to shortlist the schools from where The 'original ideas' would be gathered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The INSPIRE Award Scheme of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) program being implemented by the

Department of Science and Technology under Ministry of Science and Technology has been modified/revamped to INSPIRE Award MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) in order (i) to attract young students to study science and pursue research career (ii) to promote creative thinking and foster a culture of innovation among them thereby giving a thrust to original ideas having potential to cater to societal needs and problems.

(b) Under INSPIRE Award MANAK Scheme, in a financial year, ten (10.0) lakh ideas are being targeted from more than five (05) lakh middle and high schools across the country, out of which one (1.0) lakh ideas will be shortlisted for an initial award of ₹ 10000/- each, for preparation of project/model/showcasing of idea and participation in the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC).

(c) All middle and high schools of the country whether Government, private, semi-private, aided, un-aided are eligible to nominate 2-3 students from their schools, during a financial year, along with all the details including a brief write-up of the idea of the student. The short listing of students for INSPIRE award MANAK is being done by National Innovation Foundation, a autonomous organization of DST, based on the idea submitted by the student.

Fellows under women scientist schemes

293. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women who have been selected as fellows under the Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A), Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C);

(b) whether the fellows under these three schemes have received their stipend amounts regularly and on time and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the basis for selecting the minimum age limit for WOS-A and WOS-B as 27 years and maximum age limit as 57 years; and

(d) whether Government is considering any change in the aforementioned age limits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Four thousand forty six women have been benefitted under three components of Women Scientists Scheme (WOS) Since its inception in 2003-04. The component wise details are as follows:↵