

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) is a recent initiative of the Ministry to support Joint Research Projects through collaboration of top ranked Indian Institutions and globally ranked Foreign Institutions. It aims to support 600 research projects in two years, at an outlay of ₹ 418 crores. To channelize technical research, the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) scheme has been launched. Under IMPRINT-I, 142 research projects with an outlay of ₹ 318.71 crores for 3 years have been accepted. Under IMPRINT-II, a total of 122 projects at an estimated cost of ₹ 112 crores have been approved. For the promotion of Research in Social Sciences, the scheme for Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) has been launched. Under this scheme 1500 research projects, at a total sanctioned cost of ₹ 414 crores, will be awarded for implementation upto 31.3.2021.

Recognition of B. Pharma and D. Pharma by AICTE

†2479. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the justification for mandatory approval from AICTE to B. Pharma and D. Pharma courses run under the Pharmacy Act by MCI;
- (b) for how this approval is relevant to such courses; and
- (c) whether Government would consider to do away with this approval of AICTE, in view of recognition of the said courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987 empowers the AICTE to regulate Technical Education in India. Further, Technical Education as per clause 2 (g) of the aforementioned act *inter-alia* includes Education and Research and Training in Pharmacy. AICTE grants approvals to Technical Institutes for conducting Pharmacy Courses.

(c) The issue on various aspects involved in regulating Pharmacy education including statutory requirements of Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) Act, 1948 has been discussed at an inter-ministerial level to resolve the issue. In the meantime AICTE and PCI have taken decision to work together closely in granting approval so that no hardship is faced by Pharmacy Institutions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.