

with USA, France, Germany and several other leading countries. Further, major internationally collaborative projects have been supported for participation in research activities at major facilities like Fermilab in USA and CERN at Geneva.

To recognize and reward researchers, several awards and fellowships have been instituted, for example, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for excellence in science, the Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding young scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for young scientists, Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists and engineers, and so on. Also, the fellowships of JRF/SRF have been enhanced recently.

To make the higher education system more research-oriented, the Government has recently established three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Kolkata, Pune and Mohali. These institutions, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment. Setting up of two more IISERs, three more Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and six more National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) is being planned. There are also proposals to increase the number and distribution of Central universities across the length and breadth of the country.

(c) and (d) The Plan allocation of scientific departments was doubled from about Rs. 12000 crore in the Eleventh Plan to about Rs. 25000 crores in the Tenth Plan and the Steering Committee on Science and Technology for the Eleventh Plan has recommended that it be increased to about Rs. 122000 crore in the Eleventh Plan.

Several new initiatives have been proposed in the Eleventh Plan to further intensify research activities in the country. A new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research) has already been launched. The main features of the proposed scheme are: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. In addition, scientific research in our country will be considerably boosted by India's participation in international mega research endeavours like the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) in Germany, International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor in France, Large Hadron Collider Experiments in Switzerland, etc.

#### **Welfare of disabled persons**

†\*368. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disabled persons in the country, as on date, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the details of rehabilitation schemes introduced by Government; and
- (c) the details of the funds allocated for these schemes to each of the States, including Uttar Pradesh, during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in the country. State-wise break-up is given in the Statement (*See below*).

There are two major schemes for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities:

- (i) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, projects run by Non-Governmental Organization to provide special education, vocational training, counselling, etc. are being supported.
- (ii) Under the Scheme of the Assistance to Disabled Persons, assistive devices are provided free of cost or at concessional rates to the needy persons with disabilities.

In the above mentioned schemes, funds are released to Non-Governmental Organisations/National Institutes/Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation, and therefore, State/Union Territory-wise allocation is not made.

#### **Statement**

*State/Union Territory-wise population of persons with disabilities as per the Census 2001*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territory	Number of persons with disabilities
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	302670
2.	Himachal Pradesh	155950
3.	Punjab	424523
4.	Chandigarh	15538
5.	Uttaranchal	194769
6.	Haryana	455040
7.	Delhi	235886
8.	Rajasthan	1411979
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3453369
10.	Bihar	1887611
11.	Sikkim	20367
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	33315
13.	Nagaland	26499

(b) the village-wise details of funds allocated for upgradation of infrastructure, particularly in R.S. Pura Block in Jammu District; and