

**Review of norms relating to PMRF**

550. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of students qualifying for fellowship under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) has remained low;

(b) whether Government proposes to review the norms relating to the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) to allow more institutions to be a part of the prestigious research programme; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and the main reasons for review of norms of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) to (c) As per criterion fixed for selection of research fellows under the Scheme "Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF)", 316 fellows have been selected so far. To enhance the scope of PMRF and making it more inclusive, the guidelines of PMRF were revised in September, 2018 by allowing students from all recognized Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in the country to apply under the Scheme. Moreover, the Central Universities, which are among the top 100 NIRF ranked universities, have also been included as host institutions in addition to IITs, IISERs and IISc, Bangalore for carrying out research in Science and technology domains under the PMRF Scheme.

**Tenure tracking system in IITs**

551. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the tenure track system for hiring and promotion of Assistant Professors in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of seed funding that would be provided to these Assistant Professors for research purposes, institute-wise;

(d) the details of the infrastructure of all the IITs, including electricity connection, internet connectivity, number of functional computers and number of fully functioning science labs with its capacity, institute-wise; and

(e) the rationale behind setting the upper age limit as 35 for an Assistant Professor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (b) The tenure track system for hiring and promotion of Assistant Professors in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) came up for discussion in the 53rd IIT Council Meeting held on 27.09.2019 at IIT Delhi. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

(c) As per existing guidelines a Cumulative Professional Development Allowance (CPDA) of ₹ 3.00 lakh for every block period of 3 years are made available to every member of the faculty on reimbursable basis to meet the expenses for participating in both national and international conferences, paying the membership fee of various professional bodies and contingency expenses. In addition, IITs are providing financial assistance to the newly appointed faculty members to initiate research works. The amount of seed grant depends on research proposal and requirement of funds.

(d) Out of the 23 IITs functioning in the country, 17 are functioning from their permanent campuses with necessary academic and administrative infrastructure in place and the remaining six (6) IITs at Palakkad, Tirupati, Jammu, Dharwad, Bhilai, and Goa, are functioning from temporary, transit campuses. However, necessary infrastructures including electricity connection, scientific laboratories, internet connectivity and functional computers are available as per requirement in all IITs.

(e) Government has not fixed any upper age limit for appointment of Assistant Professors in IITs.

#### **Reservation in IIMs**

552. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in general and IIM Ahmedabad in particular, have been granted any exemption from reservations in faculty positions;