

**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;