

- BIRAC's SEED Fund with 14 Bio-incubators as Seed fund partners are operational. INR 26 crore has been sanctioned for BIRAC SEED Fund; ₹ 18.3 crore has been disbursed.

### **19. Innovation Focused Programs for Students**

- This initiative is coordinated by Department of Science and Technology and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 224 applications have been received Under NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations). Out of 30 finalists selected, 12 student run teams have been awarded ₹ 10 Lakh each. 148 projects have been sanctioned and ₹ 220.75 crore has been released under the Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana scheme. ₹ 10,000 has been granted to 1,03,497 students in the last three years under the MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and knowledge) Scheme.

#### **Employing of local population by industries**

1335. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to make it mandatory for industries to employ the local population trained at Skill Development Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Agarbatti industry**

1336. SHRI AHMED PATEL:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large-scale import of the Chinese agarbatti has endangered Indian agarbatti industry;