

Innovation Policy 2013 has focused to make careers in science, research and innovation attractive enough for talent and bright minds. The competitive extramural funding schemes of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Young Scientist Project Award, Women Scientist Scheme, National Women Bio-scientists Awards, J. C. Bose Fellowship, Swamajayanti Fellowship etc. have been designed to encourage individual scientists to do quality research in the country. Ramanujan Fellowship, Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship, Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme are some of the programs devised to attract Indian scientists from abroad as well as to retain them in the country. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has instituted a scheme entitled "Senior Research Associateship" primarily meant to provide temporary placement to highly qualified Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, and medical personnel returning from abroad, who are not holding any employment in India.

(d) Ministry does not maintain any data related to repatriation of scientists. However as on date, 415 fellows have joined various institutions/universities across the country out of which 279 fellows have already been able to seek permanent faculty positions in various Indian Institutes/Jniversities/ Laboratories under Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship and similarly, 395 fellows have taken up positions under Ramanujan Fellowship. As per available data, out of Total 103 Senior Research Associateships awarded by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2019, 28% (29) were awarded to young Indian researchers who had been working abroad.

Development of iconic tourist sites in India

1108. DR. SASMIT PATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether work has started on the development of the seventeen iconic tourist sites in India which was announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2019;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in terms of physical as well as monetary expenditure on each site;

(c) if not, when would the work start and the reasons for delay; and

(d) when the Ministry will consider including Odisha's tourist sites among the iconic sites in India for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Budget Announcement of 2019-20 the Ministry has initiated the work on the development of the seventeen iconic tourist sites in India. Ministry has identified 17 sites for development as Iconic Tourism Sites namely Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta & Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar). The Ministry shall be developing the Iconic Tourist Sites in collaboration with the Central Ministries, State Governments and Local Bodies, in a holistic manner.

The Ministry of Tourism has appointed consultants for developing the Masterplan and shelf of projects for 17 sites. The consultants have submitted the draft reports and the Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance for holding the Expenditure Finance Committee meeting for approving the scheme. Work on the development of sites will commence after completion of all procedures and formalities

The selection of sites has been carried out on the basis of existing footfall, regional distribution, potential for development and ease of implementation. The Ministry envisages to develop destinations taken up for development under the scheme as benchmark tourism destinations and later replicate it at other destinations taking into account the learnings derived from its implementation.

Promotion of tourism in the country

†1109. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to chalk out any specific plan for promoting tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the same; and
- (d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism undertakes promotional activities in domestic and international markets through its schemes of 'Domestic Promotion and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.