

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AYUSH**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 42**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**"SPARK Programme"**

**42. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:**

Will the Minister of Ayush be pleased to state:

a) the details of Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) and the manner in which it aims to foster research and innovation in the field of Ayurveda; and

(b) the details of the opportunities it provides for students to actively contribute to advancements in Ayurvedic sciences?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF AYUSH**  
**(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)**

(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 42 due for reply on 06/02/2024 by SHRI NARESH BANSAL**

**REGARDING “SPARK Programme”**

(a) The Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) was launched in September, 2022 by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) to promote interest and aptitude for research among Ayurveda undergraduate students. The main objective of this programme is to provide an opportunity to undergraduate Ayurveda students to familiarize themselves with Research Methodology and techniques by being associated for a short duration by undertaking independent research projects. The Application process for SPARK Programme is completely online and it is for the students of undergraduate Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 4<sup>th</sup> year (before appearing in 4<sup>th</sup> year final exams). The value of the studentship is Rs. 25,000/- per month for two months duration (Total Rs. 50,000/-) only. In 2022-23 batch, a total number of 778 research proposals were received from which 100 proposals were selected through a three tier review system and 95 candidates were awarded Studentship on receipt and acceptance of their final reports. For the year 2023-2024, Ministry of Ayush has increased the Annual intake from 100 to 200 in the Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK). This year a total of 2186 students were registered for the SPARK with 615 successful submissions of proposals on the online web portal. On 18/01/2024, the Result for the SPARK Batch 2023-2024 has been declared on the SPARK Web Portal and CCRAS Website.

(b) The SPARK Programme has served as a motivation for undergraduate Ayurveda students to pursue research as a career in the future. This programme helps to inculcate research aptitude and to establish the groundwork for a high-quality research in Ayurveda by encouraging more undergraduate students to pursue doctoral and post doctoral research studies. This programme aims to expand the team of brilliant Ayurvedic doctors/researchers in the country, who are well trained in good quality Research to fulfil the G-20 motives and WHO initiatives taken for Traditional and Complementary Medicine and its integration. The students get experience in conducting a scientific study and preparing research proposals on their own, which will help them in their future career development as they pursue PG, Ph.D., and other research-related goals. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) also gains from students' innovative research ideas, which would be utilized for larger-scale research projects with their consent.

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