

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1723
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2025

SCHEMES TO ATTRACT INDIAN RESEARCHERS WORKING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1723 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated schemes to provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers, who are residing in foreign countries to work in Indian Institutes and Universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government keeps track or estimates the number of Indian scientists, who leave India to work in other countries; and
- (d) if so, the details of such tracking or estimation process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (b): Ministry of Science and Technology has formulated several schemes to provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers, who are residing in foreign countries to work in Indian Institutes and Universities. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) through the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing in foreign, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities of their respective interest and domain. DST also implements a VAIBHAV (Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik) Fellowship Programme exclusively for Indian Diaspora [Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/ Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)] to undertake collaborative research in Indian Institutions. Ramanujan Fellowship of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is another scheme for brilliant Indian scientists and engineers aiming to return to India from abroad for undertaking competitive R&D. VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme of ANRF is a dedicated program exclusively for overseas scientists and academicians including NRI/ OCI to work as adjunct/ visiting faculty for a specific period of time in Indian Public funded academic and research institutions to bring a strong international connect to the R&D ecosystem of India. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been implementing “Senior Research Associateship (SRA)” scheme which is primarily meant to provide temporary placement for a period of three years only to highly qualified Indian scientists, engineers, technologists, and medical personnel returning from abroad and not holding any employment in India. This apart, CSIR has also established 50 positions of Scientists/Technologists to be filled laterally from eminent Scientists/Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO). The position has been designated as Outstanding Scientist (STIO).

(c) to (d): The Ministry of Science and Technology has primarily been engaged in promoting research and development through policies and schemes / programmes and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's Universities, Colleges, Research Institutions, and R&D laboratories. Though there were reports of Indian scientists of miniscule number leaving India for various reasons, the Ministry of Science and Technology has no mechanisms put in place to keep track or estimates the number of Indian scientists, who leave India to work in other countries.
