

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

STARS Scheme

2617. Dr. C M Ramesh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of Scheme for Transformational Advance Research in Sciences (STARS) Scheme;
- (b) the details of States that are included under STARS Scheme; and
- (c) the details of reforms that the Government is planning to bring in these States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): A Central Sector scheme called the Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS) was launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in February, 2019, with a budget outlay of Rs. 250 crores over a period of five years, viz. from 2019-20 to 2023-24. It was aimed at providing a thrust to research in Higher Education Institutions, by promoting translational and India-centric research in sciences. Six basic thrust areas viz., Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Nano Sciences, Data Science & Mathematics and Earth Sciences, have been identified under scheme. The scheme has been further extended till 31.03.2026.

STARS scheme is aimed at all MoE funded technical institutions and Central Universities and those non-MoE funded institutions with National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking above 100 (overall category) or National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading of 3.26 and above. These Higher Education Institutes are situated across the country, in various states, hence, providing opportunities of research in a regionally balanced manner. While in phase-I of the scheme, 141 projects were approved at a total cost of Rs. 90.75 Crores, 227 projects have been approved under phase-II at a cost of Rs. 133.91 Crores.
