

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18/7/2018**

FACILITATION OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS

4. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to research funding agencies in the Ministry to revise guidelines for reduction in the file processing time of research proposals to facilitate research scholars in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also set up research grievance cell in the Ministry to listen and deal with the issues relating to research scholars in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री**

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

(a) & (b): No Madam, Government has not issued any formal guidelines. However, Ministry of Science & Technology has taken initiatives to reduce the file processing time of research proposals to facilitate researchers. Various Departments of the Ministry have their own online portals for receiving and processing the research proposals to reduce the file processing time. The Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), major extramural research support agency of the Ministry has implemented online system serbonline.in for submission of research proposals, application for fellowships, international travel grant, conducting seminar, symposia or various other schemes as announced by SERB from time to time. This online system covers various stages from submission of proposals to their evaluation and fund release for approved proposals.

This online submission processes following the digital India mission has helped the Ministry to curtail the research proposal processing time.

(c) & (d): The Government of India has set up a grievance cell under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The grievances received, on the portals of various departments of Ministry of Science and Technology from DARPG, PMO, President Secretariat, through direct mode etc. are redressed within the stipulated time frame work. The grievances of the research scholars who are beneficiary of various schemes of Ministry of Science and Technology are promptly disposed of through this grievance cell.

Over and above, DST has also setup a call center under INSPIRE program to resolve the queries of the research students.
