

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4001
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.04.2022

STATUS OF ITER PROJECT

4001 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds that have been allocated towards the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project during the last five years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that India has been renegeing on the 'in-cash' contribution toward the project since 2017 and that the outstanding amount is pegged at more than rupees thousand crore, if so, reasons for the delay; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India has deployed only 25 staff members for the project instead of deploying the sanctioned 100 people, thus, losing out on gaining vital experience, if so, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- a) Since 2017 (i.e., during last five years), ITER-India has been allocated a total of Rs. 2683.90 crores. The details for year-wise sanction are as follows:-

FY of sanction	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Grant allocated (Rs. in crores)	430.6	442.8	624.5	566.0	620.0

- b) The details of payments made towards 'in-cash' contribution are as below:

FY of Payment	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Payment Made (Rs. in crores)	-	97.09	46.46	181.25	245.11

ITER is a consortium of 7 nations and all the nations give contributions based on the demands made by ITER organization and individual Government considerations.

- c) Staff working at ITER site includes, (i) ITER Organization (IO) regular staff positions, (ii) ITER Project Associate (IPA), and (iii) staff working on specific contractual tasks from industry / institutes. All ITER regular positions are filled-in through contracts running upto 5 years. With special encouragement from the Department of Atomic Energy, Indian industries including private sector industries have been deputing staff to ITER now. As on date, approx. 150 Indian nationals, both from Private and Public sectors, are working in ITER as ITER Project Associates, which is about 60% of total 250 IPAs. In addition, about 22 Indians are working as regular staff, and some more are in the remaining category. Altogether, about 180 Indians are working at ITER site. There is no concept of 'sanctioned strength' in the context of ITER staff.
