

Selection of Subjects for Research

522. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists undertake research on a variety of subjects on a large scale instead of concentrating in a specific area which brings about meagre results consequent on dilution of energy and resources;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while a large number of scientists have obtained Ph.Ds, they have not made as much progress as has been made by scientists in other countries; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any remedial steps in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) For a large country like India, it is necessary to build science and technology capabilities in diverse fields in order to utilise science and technology for development of various sectors. For a large scientific community several areas of research provide challenging opportunities which must be encouraged to ensure innovative approaches required to absorb and assimilate various developments in science and technology. During the 6th Five Year Plan, conscious efforts have been made by the Government to identify thrust areas in selected fields of science and technology and these have been promoted through carefully selected time-bound research programmes. In many of these fields, Indian scientists have made significant contributions.

Efforts involved in research and development are often of exploratory type and carefully selected programmes can very often lead to important contributions in science and technology, though this cannot be always ensured while initiating research programmes.

(b) Research efforts undertaken by young research scientists often lead to awarding of Ph. Ds degrees after certain amount of innovative contributions have been made. In India, various academic Institutions register students for Ph. D degree and during the year 1980-81, 3793 Doctorate degrees have been awarded in various areas of science and technology. Compared to the large scientific manpower required for various developmental programmes in the country, this is not too large. In view of the fact that the infrastructure available in India may not be comparable to that available in developed countries, it may not be always possible to ensure the same level of expertise as in the developed countries. Nevertheless Indian scientists with Ph. Ds. have made very significant contribution to national programmes in the areas such as agriculture, atomic energy, space etc.

(c) Government will continue to promote scientific research keeping in view our requirements in various fields. Conscious efforts will be made to be selective in the choice of research areas. During the 7th Five Year Plan some specific Missions in major socio-economic sectors, which will have large S and T components, will be undertaken so as to achieve time bound results.

Number of Projects Costing over Rs. 50 Crores and pending over 5 Years

523. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the number of projects costing over rupees 50 crores which are pending for over five years, showing the names of the Ministries ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHARY) : Ministry-wise number of projects under implementation with original approved cost of over Rs. 50 crores, being monitored by this Ministry and which are delayed over five years, is indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

List of Projects with originally approved cost of Rs. 50 Crores and above delayed over 5 Years

Name of the Ministry	No. of projects
I. Deptt. of Fertilizers	1
II. Deptt. of power	1
III. Ministry of Industry (Deptt. of Public Enterprises)	2
IV. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1
V. Ministry of Steel and Mines	3
VI. Atomic Energy	1
VII. Ministry of Transport	1

Fire Prevention Precautions in Hotels and Multistoreyed Buildings

524. PROF. K. K. TEWARY :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the light of the incident of fire recently in the Siddharth Continental Hotel in Delhi, any steps have been initiated to check whether such hotels, big business premises and multistoreyed buildings in Delhi have taken adequate fire prevention precautions according to the rules; and

(b) whether any prosecutions have been launched against the defaulters in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) The Fire Advisory Committee constituted by the Delhi Administration has been directed to inspect all high-rise buildings, big business premises and hotels in Delhi with a view to assessing the adequacy of fire prevention precautions installed on the premises.

(b) Action in keeping with the law will be taken upon receipt of the upto date reports.

Recommendation of Palme Commission

525. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the recommendations of the Palme Commission relating to nuclear free zones and the non-proliferation treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Our position on nuclear free zones Non-proliferation Treaty is well known and has been stated a number of times on the floor of this House. The Government do not see any reason for any change in their basic position notwithstanding the recommendations of the Palme Commission.