

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4529

ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001

POSITION OF ENGINEERS SCIENTISTS IN THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

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

- (a) whether the Global Competitiveness Report 1998 published by the World Economic forum has ranked India as 50th in terms of competitiveness;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that India occupies 7th position in the world in terms of competent engineers and scientists;
- (c) if so, the main reasons for decline in its competitiveness position in the world;
- (d) the total allocation made for the research and development as a percentage of GDP during the last three years; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the India's position in the world competitiveness?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

a) Yes. Sir.

b) No. Sir. According to the Global Competitiveness Report 1998 published by the World Economic Forum, India occupies 1st position in the world in terms of competent engineers and scientists.

c) The World Economic Forum has taken into account 8 parameters including Openness, Government, Finance, Infrastructure, Management, Labour, Institutions and Technology for ranking various countries, both developed and developing ones for competitiveness. India ranks first in certain areas including scientists and engineers, engineering as a profession, labour force, income tax rate for individuals, pension indicator, but her ranking in sectors like infrastructure, management, finance, etc. has been very low, thus resulting in an overall low rank.

d) Comparative statistics of Research and Development (R&D) expenditure in different countries is maintained as a percentage of Gross National Product (GNP). As per the latest official statistics, the R&D expenditure as a percentage of GNP for India has been hovering around 0.66% during 1994-95 to 1996-97. This official statistics does not include the expenditure incurred by the entities including business houses and companies which have not applied for recognition by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

e) Several steps have been taken from time to time by the Government to improve the India's position in the World Competitiveness such as

- Increase in the outlay for Science and Technology sector in Five Year Plans.
- Creation of new scientific department/organisations.
- Setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in universities and academic institutions.
- Strengthening infrastructure through various support measures and fiscal incentives.
- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.
- Manpower development training re-training programmes through Associateships/Fellowships, summer schools etc.
- R&D projects for young scientists.
- Fellowships for scientists visiting international laboratories and institutions.
- Swarnajayanti Fellowships.
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R&D as career.