

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:229
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
EXPENDITURE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Science Congress in its every session has been demanding increase in the expenditure on science and technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made by the Science Congress in this regard during the last three Sessions;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India's expenditure on science and technology of its GDP is the lowest as compared to some developing countries;
- (d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government so far to increase the expenditure on this sector of its G.D.P. ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

- (a) & (b) Indian Science Congress in some of its sessions has made recommendations to increase the expenditure on science and technology. The recommendations have sought increases ranging from 1.5% to 3% of Gross National Product (GNP).
- (c) No Sir. India's Research and Development (R&D) expenditure as a percentage of GNP is higher in comparison with several developing countries such as Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Philippines and at par with China.
- (d) The question does not arise.
- (e) The Government has been strengthening S&T infrastructure through various support measures and fiscal incentives. The Plan allocations for Science and Technology (S&T) sector has been steadily increasing for different Five Year Plan periods. The Plan allocations made for S&T sector for Ninth Plan has risen to Rs. 25,529 crores as compared to Rs. 8,264 crores for Seventh Plan to strengthen S&T infrastructure in the country. The Prime Minister during his inaugural address at the 87th Science Congress in January 2000 has made a statement that investments in R&D would be increased to 2% of GDP over the next five years. The Finance Minister in this regard has announced in the Budget 2000-2001 two New Initiatives for S&T - New Millennium Technology Leadership Scheme and Technology Vision Projects. In addition, 21 Jai Vigyan Mission projects have been initiated by various Scientific Departments.