

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2140
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2006
RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government has conducted any in-depth study to know as to whether the importance given to the research and development in the fields of science and technology is enough;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to boost the science and technology in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government regularly monitors the impact of research and development through various measures involving policy makers, scientists, researchers, academicians, industry fraternity, etc. Annual and Five Year Plan proposals of the Science and Technology Departments are formulated after extensive study and discussions. Midterm reviews of the Plan programmes are conducted to ensure implementation and set priorities for research and development in the field of science and technology in the country. However, the Government needs to do much more to improve the availability of resources and the absorption capacity for research and development in the fields of science and technology.

(c) The Government in order to give a boost to Indian Science has taken significant measures by introducing a set of new initiatives in the recent past. These include: setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER); rejuvenating basic research and higher education in university sector; establishment of new research centres of excellence; strengthening of Research and Development infrastructure in academic institutions and research laboratories; institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowships for outstanding Young Scientists; Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists; Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships for Young Scientists; Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country; J.C. Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists and engineers; Women Scientists and Young Scientists Scheme to provide opportunities to them; Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development, etc. The Government also has doubled the funding for Science and Technology in Tenth Plan and is planning to increase it further in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.