

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3493
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006
SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL .
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) Whether the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has sounded about declining standard of research and development in basic sciences;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The measures being undertaken by the government to promote research and development in basic sciences?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has expressed concern on the current status of science in the country. Attention has been drawn to important issues concerning science which include: poor enrolment of devoted young people into science education, declining trend of Indian science contributions at International academic level; scale of our investment in science in State and Central Universities; lack of growth of number of institutions of excellence, lack of freedom of operation in scientific and higher educational institutions.

Considering the current status of science, the Government has already taken significant measures such as: setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER); funds for rejuvenating basic research and higher education in university sector; establishment of new research centres of excellence; strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of fellowships for encouraging young and active scientists, specific programmes for encouraging women scientists. The Government is also considering to provide a number of new opportunities to students to take up science as a career.