

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4006
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the National Science Centre proposes to open its Branch at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the location and financial implications thereof;
- (c) whether it will be funded fully by the Government;
- (d) if so, the amount released by the Centre for the purpose;
- (e) the courses which would be conducted by the Government;
- (f) whether such branches would also be opened at other places in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (g): No, Sir. A Regional Science Centre has been set up at Bhubaneswar in 1989 by National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata (NCSM) which is an apex body for setting up Science Centres. There is no new proposal for setting up a national science centre, at Bhubaneswar. The Regional Centre is run by NCSM and the entire expenditure is met out of budget of NCSM.

The Regional Science Centre is aimed at popularising science and inculcating the spirit of inquiry and scientific temper among people at large and students in particular. Apart from various interactive exhibits displayed in the centre, various outreach science educational programmes and science related activities are also conducted. Formal academic courses are not conducted by the centre.

As per present policy of the government new science centers can be developed on behalf of governments of interested States/Union Territories which will be entirely administered by the concerned State Government/Union Territory with technical support of NCSM.