

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:406
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS MEET
Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the Indian Science Congress Meet held recently was attended by the Prime Minister; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the Meet?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized the importance of Science and Technology in the development of the country and its emergence as a knowledge superpower in the 21st century. He also said that the major challenges before the country, including climate change, water resource management, food security and disease control, could be effectively faced only by upgrading our scientific capabilities.

The Science Congress was attended by about 7000 delegates from India and abroad including two Nobel laureates from the United States of America. A large number of scientific and technical papers were presented during the Congress. In addition, this year's Children's Science Congress was also organized during the 97th Indian Science Congress which was attended by about 3500 school children from all over India. The Science and Technology Exhibition - 'Pride of India' - organized on the occasion attracted about 250,000 visitors who were mainly students of different age groups.