

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1012  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010  
LACK OF INTEREST IN SCIENCE  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is making attempts to reverse the disturbing trend of students declining interest in basic science especially in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of funds allocated and spent for the purpose in the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (d) the steps being taken to correct the situation in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d): There is no decline in the interest of students in basic sciences at the Secondary level. Infact the number of students opting for science in Class X has been increasing over the last 3 years. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken various initiatives to promote interest of students in science such as restructuring of syllabus of science; increasing the weightage to practical work; development of supplementary material on activity based learning of science concepts; holding of Regional and National level science exhibition; holding orientation programmes for science teachers etc.

The Central Government had set up a Task Force for Basic Scientific Research in Universities. In order to implement its recommendations, the Task Force was constituted into an Empowered Committee.

The funds provided by UGC for the purpose of implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force in the last three years are as under:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
(Rs. crore)	(Rs. crore)	(Rs. crore)

Allocation for the	163	144	123
year by UGC			

Funds released by UGC	165.88	143.59	82.63
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(upto31-12-09)