

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2066
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
SETTING UP OF NSRF
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Science and Research Foundation (NSRF) of international standard in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location identified for the purpose, State-wise; and
- (c) the norms/criteria adopted for the selection of site for such Research Foundation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF 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. As per the provisions of the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008, which received the assent of the President of India on January 17, 2009, the Government is setting up the Science and Engineering Board (SERB) with aims similar to a National Science and Research Foundation. This will be the premier basic research funding agency of the country like the National Science Foundation in the USA, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council in Canada and similar bodies in other countries.

(b) The SERB will have its own system of administrative and financial management with flexibilities in operation and it will be responsive to the fast decision-making requirements of modern day internationally competitive research. It will have the necessary autonomy to ensure speedy appraisal and approval of research proposals. The Government not only intends to adopt the global best practices of similar bodies in other countries, but also improve upon the same keeping in view the special needs of scientists and institutions in our country. SERB will be chaired by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Science and Technology and will have senior officials of Government of India and eminent scientists as members.

(c) As per the provisions of the SERB Act, 2008, the Head Office of SERB shall be located at Delhi or in the National Capital Region.