

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3613  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010  
DECLINING NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Dashmunsi Deepa

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

- (a) whether the number of scientists in the country is declining continuously;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken steps or considering to take steps to constitute an Expert Committee to review working conditions of scientists and to provide necessary help to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the amount given for research in the field of science is not being spent fully; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): No Madam. According to the latest available official statistics, the number of scientists performing research in the country has risen from 110 per million people in 2000 to 140 per million people in 2005. There are indication of increasing trends with the establishment of several new institutions and Research and Development Centres.

(c) & (d): No Madam. However, the Ministry of Science and Technology has taken several steps to improve the working conditions of researchers in the country. These include induction of new and attractive fellowships, increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive five year plans, setting up of centres of excellence/incubation centres, better pay scales to scientists as per the sixth pay commission and creation of new/additional posts etc. The Science and Technology infrastructure of the science departments of Universities, Colleges and other academic Institutions in the country have been substantially improved through a major initiative titled "Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology infrastructure (FIST)".

(e) & (f): The funds given for research in the field of science were utilized fully by the Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology during the recent years. In this regard, the Government has taken several steps such as changes in the existing project evaluation/approval process, quarterly monitoring of flow of funds and awareness creation among the scientific community about various schemes. National Science and Engineering Research Board has been constituted and steps are taken to establish a mechanism to increase the overall efficiency of the fund delivery for research and development.