

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:597
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
DECLINE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK
Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali

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

(a) whether the scientists are preferring going abroad for research work in view of declining investment as well as interest of corporate world;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for reversing the trend of declining investment as well as interests of the corporate world in the said sector and for checking exodus of our scientists abroad?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a)&(b): No, Madam. Indian investment to R&D during the Eleventh Plan has registered significant growth. In developed and advanced countries, on the other hand, there is a deceleration of investment into R&D. Preference of Indian Scientists to work abroad, if not be on account of investment or in the interest of corporate world. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been trebled from Rs. 25301.35 crore in the X Plan to Rs. 75304.00 crores in the XI Plan. The outlay proposed for the XII Plan for S&T is Rs. 1,70,000 crore. Investment in R&D expenditure to the level of 2% of GDP has been proposed from the current level of 0.98%. Efforts are also being made to invest greatly in public private partnerships in R&D and innovations in the country. The propitious policy environment has prompted multinational companies (MNC) to invest more in our country as evidenced by the data that the number of R&D labs set up by MNCs in India has risen from 100 in 2003 to 750 in 2009 (UNESCO Science Report 2010). The Government has taken a number of steps to provide better scientific environment for development and advancement of scientific research in the country. Ramanujan and Ramalingaswami Fellowships of the Government have attracted outstanding Indian scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country. Above 300 Indian scientists from abroad have availed these fellowships during the last 5 years. In addition, some of the enabling mechanisms put in place by the Government to promote R&D in India include: sharing of proceeds with scientists from sponsored projects, consultancy projects and premia and royalty received from the industry; mobility of scientists between national labs, academia and industry; knowledge alliance with private industry to pursue product driven R&D and establishment of incubation centres to nurture start-up companies and enable chances of commercialization; investment of knowledgebase as equity in enterprises.