

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:668
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
BASIC RESEARCH
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether considerable effort has not been made to develop country as a place of basic research;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the funds spent on developing basic research in Karnataka?

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. The Government has taken a number of steps to develop our country as a place of basic research. The Government has created a new structure for basic research by establishing a Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) in the country as an autonomous body through an Act of Parliament. The creation of SERB, apart from significantly enhancing the level of basic research funding, shall also impart the necessary autonomy, flexibility and speed in shaping the research programmes and delivery of funds to researchers. Other measures to promote basic sciences include successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for Research and Development (R&D), launching of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) etc. Apart from expanding the scope of investigator centric Extra Mural Research support programmes in terms of quantity and quality, multifaceted programmes like Start-up Research grant for Indian Diaspora undertaking faculty assignments in Indian academia, Overseas Doctoral Scholarships and Post-doctoral Fellowships, Building Educators for Science Teaching etc. are proposed for the XII Five Year Plan to take basic research to higher levels.

(c) During the last three years the Ministry has spent/sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs. 720.0 crores on developing basic research in Karnataka.