GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4180
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
STATUS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

(a) whether India is deficient in the field of research and development and dependent on foreign countries for assistance in this field;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. India has a strong independent base in Research and Development (R&D) in Science and Technology. India has been able to build up a capacity in a wide range of areas of modern technology, from software engineering to health biotechnology and the performance of our country in recent years is impressive and promising. Significant achievements have been made in the areas of nuclear and space science, electronics, IT and defence. India has partnered with other leading countries in mega projects like India-Japan beamline at the Photon Factory, KEK, Japan; Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR), Germany; Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, Geneva; Elettra Synchrotron Facility at Trieste, Italy; India based Neutrino Observatory (INO) etc. The Government has taken a number of steps to accelerate the development and promotion of R&D. These measures 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 R&D, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships etc. S&T Departments have made detailed plans with substantial increase of investment in the XII Plan period. This includes initiation of Grand Challenge Programmes; setting up Peta scale supercomputing facilities for various applications in prime domains like climate modelling, weather prediction, aerospace engineering, computational biology, atomic energy simulations, earthquake simulations, national security etc. Increase R&D expenditure to 2% of GDP with sizable contribution from the corporate sector by attracting investments and engagement of the corporate sector into R&D is another significant action plan to improve the situation.