

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4065
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
NATIONAL SCIENTISTS ADVISORY BOARD
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to suggestions given by prominent scientists to establish 'National Science Advisory Board' in the country;
- (b) if so, the decisions likely to be taken by the Government thereon; and
- (c) the steps likely to be taken to encourage the scientists in future so that Indian science could compete with the other countries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Establishment of a National Science Advisory Board (NSAB) as an independent body for advising the Government on science related policy matters, development of strategies and proposing structural reforms in governance was discussed at Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC to PM) in one of its internal meetings. The Government has not received any suggestion on establishment of NSAB and no decision is possible without wide consultation.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to encourage scientists to engage in quality research and development. 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 Research and Development (R&D), encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, etc. Launching of programmes like Nano Mission, Mega Facilities, Open Source Drug Discovery, Climate Change Studies, National Biotechnology Development Strategy, etc. and creation of a new structure for basic research by establishing a Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) in the country demonstrates the commitment of the Government to encourage and promote research in a better scientific environment. Sharing of proceeds with scientists from sponsored projects, consultancy projects, 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 and incentives for performing scientists etc. are some of the initiatives aimed at scientists to take up challenging research so that Indian Science could compete with the other countries.