GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3213
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

(a) whether the Government is pursuing indigenous research projects rather than to execute projects for foreign multinational companies in science and technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the 12th Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. The projects supported by the Government are for pursuing indigenous research only. The launch of new initiatives like Nano Mission, Support to Mega Facilities, Solar Energy, Open Source Drug Discovery, Translational Research, Network Projects and the National Biotechnology Development Strategy in the XI Plan period demonstrates the commitment of the Government to encourage, promote and develop an innovative ecosystem for indigenous research in the country.

(b) The Government has established Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) as an autonomous body through an Act of Parliament. The creation of SERB would significantly enhance the level of basic research funding in the 12th Plan period and also impart the necessary autonomy, flexibility and speed in shaping the research programmes and delivery of funds to researchers. The 12th Five Year Plan has embedded several new initiatives to promote indigenous research in science and technology. These include National Supercomputing Mission: Building Capacity & Capability; PAN-India Mission, Challenge Award for Global Positioning; International Centre for Operational Oceanography; etc. The Ministry of Science & Technology along with other S&T Ministries/ Departments has defined national targets for the S&T Sector in the 12th Five Year Plan. These targets include improving the global ranking of the country to the 6th position based on Science Citation Index; enhancing PhD output in S&T to 12500 candidates per year; gender parity in extra-mural research funding to be better than 60:40; increased share of high technology in exports; and improving country's position in Global Innovation Index ranking. To achieve this the Ministry has included support to frontier areas of research that include nanoscience and nanotechnology, combustion engineering R&D, aerospace and allied areas, health care drugs & pharmaceuticals, food & food processing, energy, computational and particle physics, computer science & technology, green chemistry, mining and mineral engineering, molecular materials, solar energy and water technology to boost indigenous research in the country. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented several integrated research programmes in several sectoral areas of application of biotechnology in agriculture, health care, environment and industrial development. The Ministry of Earth Science has included high potential areas of research in polar science & cryosphere, climate change and ocean technology. The priorities set for the 12th Plan also include stimulation of private sector engagement for investment into R&D; public-private partnerships for promotion of R&D and clean energy; enlarging research in the university sector. Steps would be taken to launch grand challenge mission mode programmes for application in biotechnology, healthcare, agriculture and other areas of national priorities including supercomputing facilities to enlarge the scope of quality indigenous research.