

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:13

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

INNOVATION CAPABILITIES

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

(a) whether India ranks at 66th position in terms of innovation capabilities among the comity of nations and its innovation capabilities are lower among BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the funds allocated to Research and Development (R&D) and utilized therefrom during each of the last three years, institution-wise;

(c) the extent to which capacities of universities and R&D institutions in the public sector have been utilized including the number of research projects entrusted to these institutions by the Government during the said period and the amount spent thereon; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 FOR 05.12.2013 REGARDING "INNOVATION CAPABILITIES"

(a) Yes Madam. India is ranked at 66th position in terms of innovation capabilities as per the Global Innovation Index 2013 co-published by Cornell University USA, European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Among the BRICS countries other than India, Brazil is ranked at 64, Russian Federation at 62, China at 35, and South Africa at 58 in terms of innovation capabilities.

(b) Institution-wise allocation of funds for Research & Development (R&D) under various departments of Ministry of Science & Technology during the last three years is at Annexure-A. Releases of funds to the research institutions are subject to the complete utilization of funds released in earlier years.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Science and Technology have not mapped quantitatively the capacities of universities and R&D institutions and it does not assign research projects to them adopting a top-down planning approach because universities and several R&D institutions where research take place are not being administratively controlled by the Ministry. The Ministry of Science and Technology other than CSIR adopts extramural funding support based on the competitive grant model as per the global practice. In this model individual researchers submit research proposal based on their strength and expertise in the area. The Ministry has established a sound peer review mechanism to assess technical merits of various research proposals and sanction research funds after due appraisal. It has also positioned sound review mechanism for monitoring quality of research outputs before supporting further research proposals. The Ministry has also in addition established a Fund for Infrastructure Strengthening of S&T (FIST) in the universities and R&D institutions. During last three years, the Ministry has supported research in performing universities and has established incentive based scheme called Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE). Under this scheme, the research performance of universities is assessed through number of publications and citation for providing incentive based grants.

Number of extramural research projects approved and implemented on the basis of peer review mechanism in various universities and R&D institutions along with fund released by the Ministry of Science and Technology are listed in Annexure-B. In order to increase the participation of women in science the Department of Science and Technology initiated a scheme titled Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) under which six women universities have so far been supported. In order to improve the regional imbalance in terms of research infrastructure special packages have been evolved and implemented for North Eastern region and for the states of Jammu Kashmir and Bihar. Further, a special scheme to enhance the participation of weaker section belonging to SC/ST community in undertaking research and development has also been implemented.