

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4376
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen and develop the science and technology infrastructure in major sectors;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any system to encourage the scientists, technology experts and other specialized institutions in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is providing any assistance to or coordinating with the foreign institutions having the said expertise; and
- (f) if so, the detail in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government has recognized that strengthening and developing the science and technology infrastructure is the best way to foment fast economic growth and thereby achieve all round development of the country. A number of steps have been taken to strengthen the research infrastructure in major sectors. The schemes / programmes such as Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructures in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Consolidation of University Research for Innovation & Excellence (CURIE) in Women Universities, Region specific S&T Packages for North- East Region (NER), J&K and Bihar of Department of Science and Technology (DST); Boost to University Interdisciplinary Life Science Department for Education and Research (DBT-BUILDER), biotech facilities infrastructure development programme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) are aimed at strengthening research infrastructure in the country. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been upgrading S&T infrastructure in order to facilitate pursuance of activities aimed at high science and cutting edge technology development.

(c) Government has put in several systems to encourage the scientists, technology experts and specialized institutions in the country. The JC Bose, Ramanujan and Ramalingaswami Fellowships of the Government have attracted outstanding Indian scientists and engineers to take up research in the country. The recently introduced Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship is aimed to attract eminent scientists of any country to undertake collaborative and part-time research in laboratories in India over a period of three years. Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Award is meant for young Indian scientists from all over the world to carry out quality research. Women Scientist Scheme, National Women Bio-scientists Awards etc. are some measures to support women scientists for doing quality research. CSIR provides performance linked incentives to the awardees of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. Some other incentive systems are: Sharing of proceeds with scientists from contractual R&D, consultancy and premia & royalty received from the transfer of technology; and Setting up of knowledge enterprises while being in service. Specialized institutions under DST, DBT and CSIR are also adequately funded through various mechanisms.

(d) & (e): Government is promoting international collaborative R & D in various areas of Science & Technology through bilateral & multilateral cooperation. Presently India has bilateral S&T cooperation agreements with more than 80 countries in force with active cooperation with 42 countries. Such collaborations benefit in exchange of information, generation of new knowledge, sharing of expertise, access to advanced facilities and sophisticated instruments and allow participation in international mega science projects. This in turn helps to enhance the quality and output of science in the country.