

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1424
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORY FOR RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is mandatory for institutions performing research in our country to set up open access repositories for research publications done in their institutions;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has any monitoring mechanism to watch over these institutions;
- (c) if not, whether the Ministry has any proposal to create such open access to research materials and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and other scientific institutions adopt the policy of publishing the research papers conducted under their funding for free access to scientists and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any of Government agencies, carrying out research in their own laboratories or funding research carried out by other organisations such as universities and colleges, adopt such an open access policy; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor along with the present status of the proposed open access policy drafted by the Department of Biotechnology and Department of S&T?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): No Madam. It is not mandatory for institutions performing research in India to set up open access repositories for research publications done in their institutions. The Ministry has set up a central harvester and repository for institutions under Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT). These can also be used by researchers from institutions that do not have their own institutional repository (IR) for depositing their research papers and review articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

(d) & (e): Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been promoting open access by motivating its scientists to archive the pre-prints of publications in open access repositories maintained at each of its constituent laboratories and at a central harvester, while encouraging its scientists to publish in the best journals, including in the open access journals. Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) adopted open access policy and scientists and other research personnel of the ICAR are encouraged to publish their research work with publishers which allow self-archiving in open access institutional repositories. Some educational institutions like Indian Institute of Technology/s (IITs) adopt voluntary open access policy, wherein the faculty members are encouraged to deposit the research papers in their institutional repositories. ICMR does not have Open Access (OA) Policy.

(f) The OA policy drafted by DST and DBT has been approved.