

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:232  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015  
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE LOCAL WISDOM  
Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

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

- (a) whether any substantive measures are being undertaken for promotion of traditional knowledge and local wisdom in the country to solve everyday problems faced in life;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the employability of the tribal and backward youth in the field of science and technology;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to strengthen the human capability in scientific research and promotion of grassroot innovation in various States including Jharkhand; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) National Innovation Foundation –India (NIF) has been set up by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India as a national initiative to promote and support grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge and local wisdom from all parts of the country. NIF has built up a database of over 2,00,000 technological ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge, majority of which pertain to agricultural, veterinary or human use. The traditional knowledge documented at NIF is screened for its novelty and then validated with the help of State Agricultural Universities, Veterinary Universities, R&D institutions etc. NIF has an MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to validate novel claims of herbal healers. For the practices found to be unique/ novel, NIF also files patent in the name of knowledge holders. Besides, the CSIR has been playing an important role in protecting India's rich traditional knowledge in healthcare by creating a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturapathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). To document/ protect traditional knowledge of the tribal people in the Country, Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has also made an effort to prepare briefs on the products/crafts practiced by them and their marketing.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. The Ministry of Science & Technology has no specific programme to improve the employability of the tribal and backward youth in the field of Science and Technology. However, the Tribal Sub-Plan scheme of the Department of Science & Technology provides opportunities to motivated scientists, technologists and field level S&T organizations to take up action-oriented and location-specific projects aiming at socio-economic upliftment of tribal population through appropriate technological interventions.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) To strengthen the capability of grassroots innovators, NIF has established thirty four (34) community workshops in rural areas in eighteen (18) states of the country at the premises of seasoned innovators so that other grassroots innovators of the region can have access to fabrication facilities and also learn from the experiences of such innovators. Shri Sukhram Mistry, a grassroots innovator and NIF awardee from Lohardaga, Jharkhand has been provided such support. Ten (10) grassroots innovators from Bokaro, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Lohardaga and Ranchi have been recognized in different National Award Functions of NIF during 2002-2014. In this endeavor, through collaboration with Research & Development Institutions, NIF helps to strengthen the human capability in scientific research for getting these grassroots innovations validated and converted into value added technologies/products.