

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:207

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

Chautala Shri Dushyant;Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

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

- (a) whether the Indian Science Congress (ISC) held its deliberations in 2015 at Mumbai and if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether the ISC has expressed its concern on various issues including dismal state of research in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the scientists recognize ancient Indian scientific methods; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to bring these methods to light at national and international fora?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.207 FOR 11.03.2015 REGARDING "INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS"

(a) Yes, Madam. The recent (102nd) Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) was held at the University of Mumbai from 3rd to 7th January, 2015. Large number of plenary talks, symposia, sectional talks, public lectures were organized on a wide variety of topics such as mega science projects in astronomy, mathematics, physical, chemical and life sciences, atomic energy, space science and technology, ancient science through Sanskrit, etc. This has led to increased awareness about advances in Research and Development (R&D) in various disciplines.

(b) & (c): Indian Science Congress (ISC) is a mammoth grassroots annual science event. ISC at Mumbai was attended by about 16,000 participants from school students to Nobel Laureates. The participants express their views freely and frankly on various issues related to science and technology in the country as per their perception and assessment. The usual areas of concern include disinterest among school and college students to study science and take it up as a career, lack of research infrastructure in universities, lack of staff in universities, low level of spending on Research & Development (R&D) and so on. The Government on its part has constantly taken measures to promote R&D in various fields of science and technology. Schemes like Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Other Higher Educational Institutions (FIST), Promotion of University Research for Scientific Excellence (PURSE), etc. aim to address the usual concerns.

(d) Yes, Madam. It is widely recognized that Indians in ancient times made significant advances in a variety of scientific disciplines such as mathematics, astronomy, surgery and medicine.

(e) The Government has been taking a number of steps for over five decades to bring these facts to light at the national and international level. The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, a professional body funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has an active programme on History of Science which started with the establishment of the History of Science Board at the Asiatic Society in Kolkata in 1960. This was later renamed as the "Indian National Commission for History of Science". INSA has brought out several important texts on ancient Indian Science. It also brings out a Journal of History of Indian Science which is in its 50th year and is one of few such journals in the world. The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Allahabad, yet another professional body funded by DST, has been carrying out studies on ancient Indian Science and has recently come out with several volumes on the subject. DST has been running a programme on Ayurveda Biology under the guidance of Professor MS Valiathan, a renowned cardiac surgeon who has done considerable work on ancient Indian medical knowledge. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) continues to pursue an active programme in this domain.