

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
RE ORIENTATION OF RESEARCH WORK
Hari Shri G.;Mahendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has urged scientists to re-orient research work for the benefit of the society;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the present status of the proposal to enhance the retirement age of scientists;
- (d) the number of scientists likely to be benefitted as a result thereof; and
- (e) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.310 FOR 18/03/2015 REGARDING 'RE-ORIENTATION OF RESEARCH WORK'

(a) S&T endeavours place great emphasis on contributing to the societal development. Twelfth Five Year Plan has also laid emphasis on Indian Science to address the major developmental needs of the country like food security, energy and environmental needs, addressing the water challenges and providing technological solutions to affordable health care requirements. During 102nd Indian Science Congress held in Mumbai on 3rd January 2015, Indian Scientific Community was reminded once again that science, technology and innovation must reach the poorest, the remotest and the most vulnerable person.

(b) Several initiatives towards this end are under implementation by the scientific departments. Some of the notable schemes directly benefiting the society are S&T Programmes for Socio-economic Development; Clean Energy Research Initiative, Water Technology Initiative with the Department of Science & Technology (DST). Similarly, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) implements schemes like Biotechnology Programmes for Rural Areas, Biotechnology for Societal Development specifically intended to benefit the society. Several other schemes of DBT like Agriculture Biotechnology and allied Areas; Medical Biotechnology and Related Areas; Vaccine Research and Development; Aquaculture and Marine Biotechnology ; and Food and Nutrition Science & Technology are intended to bring benefits to society. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), through its network of 38 laboratories under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides significant technological interventions in many areas including health, drinking water, food, housing, energy and farm and non-farm sectors.

(c) The proposal to enhance the retirement age of scientists is at the stage of inter -ministerial consultation.

(d) The draft proposal will cover approximately 70000 scientists.

(e) Further steps will be taken after inter-ministerial consultation.