

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2465
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
INDIGENOUS RESEARCH
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

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

- (a) whether the Government is pursuing indigenous research projects rather than executing projects for foreign multinational companies in Science and Technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in the 12th Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the present status thereof for the remaining period of 12th Five Year Plan especially in the rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. The Government encourages indigenous research projects in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) and is not executing projects for foreign multinational companies.

(b) & (c): Several new initiatives to promote indigenous research in S&T have been taken by the Government in the XII Plan period. This includes initiation of Water Technology Initiative, Solar Energy Research Initiative, Nano Mission (Phase-II), setting up of Peta scale supercomputing facilities etc. by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Indigenous research received a major boost with the establishment of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under DST. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) intensively pursues indigenous research in areas such as agriculture, medical, environmental, bioengineering etc. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) pursues indigenous research across a wide spectrum of science and technology – from radio and space physics, oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology. CSIR has made significant contributions in the fields of affordable healthcare, chemicals and petrochemicals, value added agriculture, minerals, metals and materials, food and food processing, construction and housing, leather, glass and ceramics etc. The concerted efforts of DBT have resulted in commercialization of many technologies such as a biofertilizer, diagnostics kits for chikungunya, dengue and TB. Development of world's first low cost rota-virus vaccine is a visible demonstration of public private partnerships in S&T. DBT is supporting the upliftment of rural areas through application of well established biotech based techniques such as tissues culture in the plantation of economic plants/trees in rural areas, development of vermiculure and biofertilizer. During the remaining 12th Plan period, the programmes such as skill development for farm and non-farm trade related activities, encouragement of secondary agriculture through Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and creation of self-employment with social Innovations shall be encouraged. The CSIR 800 programme extends S&T needed for the masses at the base of economic pyramid, so as to enhance their quality of life and remove drudgery. Support to indigenous research in rural and scheduled areas are expanded through consortium mode of programme implementation and solution design.