

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
PROMOTION OF S T IN NE REGION
Deka Shri Ramen

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

- (a) the details of ongoing schemes/programmes/projects for the promotion of Science and Technology including Human Resources in the North East Region (NER) including Assam;
- (b) whether proposals have been received from various States of the North East Region including Assam for promoting Science and Technology, education, research, strengthening of institutional capacities in Research and Development and development of local technologies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken for the promotion of S&T in NER, along with the funds sanctioned released and utilised during the last two years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.311 FOR 30/07/2014 REGARDING 'PROMOTION OF S&T IN NE REGION'

(a) A large number of ongoing schemes/programmes/projects for the promotion of Science and Technology (S&T) of the Ministry which are being implemented in all parts of the country including North-Eastern region and Assam are given below. However, there are also certain specific schemes including a North-East package, which are implemented by the Department of Science and Technology in the North East.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing schemes such as Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), R&D support through Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Young Scientist Support, Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure in Universities and Higher Education Institutions (FIST), North East Special Package- FIST/ Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), State S&T Programme (SSTP), Nano Technology, Water Technology Initiative (WTI), Solar Energy Research Initiative (SERI), Patent Facilitation Cell (PFC) Programme, National S&T Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), National Council for S&T Communication (NCSTC), Mission for Geo-Spatial Application, Technology System Development Programme (TSDP), Instrumentation Development Programme (IDP) etc. The Department of Biotechnology is implementing schemes such as DBT-NER Twinning Programme, DBT's e-Library Consortia (NER-DeLCON), Overseas Fellowship/Associateship for NER Scientists, Biotech Hubs, Development / Upgradation infrastructure in medical colleges, DBT centre for agriculture biotechnology, Center of Excellence at College of Fisheries etc. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is implementing schemes such as Technoentrepreneur Promotion Programme (TePP) and National Laboratories Scheme of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) & (c): The Ministry of Science and Technology does not implement any Centrally Sponsored Schemes through State Governments nor has any provision for making state-wise allocations. However, the Ministry works with S&T institutions, Universities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in the NE region including Assam for implementation of the above schemes.

The Ministry has taken various actions for promoting Science and Technology, education, research, strengthening of institutional capacities in Research and Development and development of local technologies. Some of the actions taken by Department of Science & Technology include, commissioning of microhydel plants, iron removal plants at 16 places, 18,455 INSPIRE awards for students till date, established 7 Patent Information Centers, established 2 Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF) at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong and Guahati University. Besides the above, the Department of Science and Technology has created a special package under the FIST programme for strengthening S&T infrastructure in the region. Under this package so far Rs. 42 Crores has been made available for various activities. In addition to the above, 75 projects to popularize science, 30 projects

for development and demonstration of local technologies (including nano technology) have been supported. Further more DST has established North East Center for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) for harnessing and leveraging niche frontier technologies available with central scientific Departments and Institutions with its headquarter at Shillong.

The Department of Biotechnology has made 10% allocation of its annual budget for biotechnology based research and development in NE region of the country. 350 twinning R&D projects, 11 medical colleges for enhancing diagnostic services in medical biotechnology, 120 Biotech Hubs, 18 institutions under the DBT e-library consortium (Del CON) have received grants. Besides this, 123 scientists have got support for Overseas Associateship from DBT. Under the societal development component of DBT, a Biotech Park at Guwahati has been established. The Department of Biotechnology has also been supporting Entrepreneurship Development Programmes in Biotechnology and Tissue Culture domain in the NE region. The Department has also supported large scale demonstration of Diarrhoea Treatment kit, network programme on cancer for women, and capacity building of women farmers for preserving future genetic resources in NE region of the country.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through its constituent laboratory North East Institute of Science & Technology (NEIST) has developed several useful technologies for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). These technologies include herbal anti-arthritis ointment, anti-asthmatic formulation, agro-technologies on cultivation of edible mushrooms, low cost roofing sheets, speciality papers and boards, and green tea polyphenol from Assam tea. The technologies have been deployed and are being utilized gainfully. Furthermore, 2700 school students have been benefitted through 60 awareness programmes.

(d) The Ministry of Science & Technology has taken various pro-active steps to evolve and implement various schemes in the North Eastern Region such as special package through the scheme Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure in Universities and Higher Education Institutions (FIST) by DST, strengthening of institutional state-of-the-art facilities, encouraging overseas and National Associate fellowships, capacity building in medical colleges and other S&T human resource development activities. Further, special initiative through brainstorming meetings/workshops, regional meetings by involving stakeholders are periodically held to enable Scientists and Technologists of North Eastern States to train them on R&D project formulation, including addressing location specific research and technology development and Intellectual Property Rights issues.

An amount of Rs. 531.07 Crore have been sanctioned/utilized during the last three years including the current year for the promotion of S&T in the NE region by the Ministry of Science & Technology.