

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:783

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

FUNDS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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

- (a) the percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) spent on Research and Development (R&D) by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the corresponding figures for the other BRICS countries;
- (c) the desired level of investment in R&D;
- (d) whether the Government has come up with a science, technology and innovation policy and proposes to spent at least two per cent of the GDP for scientific research;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the way in which the Government plans to achieve it along with the timeframe therefor; and
- (f) the details of proposals, if any, to introduce schemes to encourage novel research by universities?

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) & (b): India's Research and Development expenditure as percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years and corresponding figures for BRICS countries are Annexed.

(c) to (e): Yes Madam. The Government as per the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI) 2013, plans to increase investment in Research and Development (R&D) as percentage of GDP to 2% by the end of XII plan period from the current level of 0.88%. Government plans to achieve this target provided private sector increase its R&D investment to match at least the public sector R&D investment. STI Policy has accordingly enumerated several measures such as various policy changes, increase in investment in R&D including by-industry and strategic sectors, extension of basic science infrastructure, new models for public private partnership and encouraging international collaborations, etc.

(f) At present there is no proposal to introduce schemes to encourage novel research by Universities. There are, however, already several schemes such as Promotion of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (PURSE), Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE), Fund for Improvement of S&T infrastructures in Universities & Higher Institutions (FIST), Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research and Technology Development (PACE), etc. being run by the Ministry of Science and Technology to foster and encourage novel research in the universities.

Annexure

R&D Expenditure as percentage of GDP for BRICS Countries

Country	2009	2010	2011
Brazil	1.17	1.16	NA
Russian Federation	1.25	1.16	1.12
India	0.87	0.87	0.88
China	1.70	1.76	1.84
South Africa	0.87	NA	NA

Source: a. UNESCO Data Centre (Data extracted on 11 July, 2014)

b. Research and Development Statistics, 2011-12 DST (GoI) Data for the years beyond 2011 not available for India and other BRICS countries.

Note: NA - Not Available; - Estimated