

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4022
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
RESEARCH SCHOLARS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total number of Research Scholars in the field of science and technology education in the country is lower than in China;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of Research scholars in the field of science and technology education?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The percentage of Research Scholars in China is 0.08% of the total population whereas that for India is 0.02% of the total population. One of the reasons for less number of research scholar in India is due to the fact that investment on R&D as percentage of GDP is lower in India as compared to China. In the year 2011 the investment on R&D was 0.81% of GDP in India while that for China was 1.84%.

(c): The Government has taken various measures to encourage scientific research in the country. These measures include successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, induction of new and attractive fellowships, strengthening infrastructure for R&D in universities, encouraging public-private R&D partnerships, recognition of R&D units and national awards for outstanding R&D for industries etc. Department of Science & Technology also through various schemes/programmes encourages students to undertake research by giving scholarships, awards and fellowships etc. at various levels of education through its INSPIRE Programme.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is India's largest Research and Development organization. It has 39 laboratories and 50 field stations/extension centres spread across the nation. These centres are engaged in research in sectors as diverse as Aerospace, Biotechnology, Chemicals, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Food & Food Processing, Information Dissemination, Leather and Metal, Minerals & Manufacturing etc.

Efforts are being made to increase institutes of National Importance in the country. 8 new IITs, 10 new NITs and 5 IISER have been set-up. A need has been felt to establish IITs in every state, accordingly five new IITs have been announced in Budget speech- 2014.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides grants to Universities & Colleges declared fit to receive grants as per Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956, for general development, fellowships /scholarships and Research Projects which are directly or indirectly supporting Scientific Research. It has also started a scheme for promoting basic Scientific research exclusively. Universities, which are assisted under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) of the UGC are eligible for support from the UGC under the Basic Scientific research Scheme.