

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3875
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015
S&T in Rural Areas
Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Pandey Dr. Mahendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government funded research and development organisations and the scientist community are unable to fulfil the requirements of rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the utilisation of services of various organisations for the welfare of the rural areas in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any special project to develop scientific approach to remove superstitions, specially in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to include Non-Governmental Organisations in such projects and if so, the details thereof?

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) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise. However, the government continually strives to improve the utilization of services of various organizations for welfare of the masses across the country, particularly those living in rural areas.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) aims to inculcate scientific temperament and rational thinking leading to informed decision making through Science Communicators who can explain the prevalent scientific principles behind miracles and beliefs (superstitions), especially in rural areas. The NCSTC is implementing a unique programme namely "Science behind Miracles". This programme comprises of a training module aimed at investigating the so called 'miracles' and unfolding the science behind these besides providing basic skills in performing such miracles, in its endeavour to generate scientific temper among the masses.

(e) Yes, Madam. NCSTC, DST, has been conducting programme outlined in (d) above involving Non-Governmental Organisations, amongst others. Several workshops and training programmes were conducted in Jammu & Kashmir (Udhampur & Reasi), Goa, Odisha, Rajasthan (Bikaner), Bihar (Lakhimpur, Begusarai and Seetamani) and Maharashtra (Nagpur, Nasik and Mumbai). About 150 persons have been trained in these programmes.
