

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5092
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
PUBLICATION OF SCIENCE JOURNALS
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has drafted/proposes to draft a policy that says public funded scientific work published in science journals must adhere to open access norms enabling anyone to read online content on science research for free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure that the availability on the net is equivalent to public domain and the quality of content provided through open access;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether concerns have been raised by many experts in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

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): Yes Madam. Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology has drafted an open access policy and it is hosted on the respective departments' websites seeking comments and suggestions from scientific community and the public.

(c) & (d): Once the the Policy is adopted, researchers will have an unrestricted access to the papers arising out of the publicly funded research without requiring to pay for it.

(e) & (f): Several concerns such as payment of publication charges, copy right issues, freedom to choose the journal, quality etc have been raised. These will be addressed while framing the Open Access Policy.