

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2083  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014  
INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROJECTS  
Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet

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

- (a) whether the Government encourages indigenous research projects in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) instead of executing projects meant for foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the projects undertaken during the Eleventh Plan period;
- (c) whether the Government has established Science and Engineering Research Board to enhance significantly the level of basic research funding during the Twelfth plan period and if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (d) the details of new initiatives undertaken by the Government to promote indigenous research in S&T; and
- (e) the details of various foreign S&T projects being executed by the country, country-wise?

**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) Yes, Madam. Government encourages indigenous research projects in the field of Science and Technology (S&T) and is not executing projects meant for foreign countries.

(b) The efforts of Government in pursuing indigenous research projects in various areas of Science and Technology (S&T) has resulted in a strong base in Research and Development (R&D) in the country. Significant achievements have been made in the areas of agriculture, nuclear and space science, electronics, Information Technology (IT) and defence. During the Eleventh Plan period, Government had pursued several high value indigenous research projects such as development of cryogenic engine, heavy lift launch vehicle, advanced communication satellite, reactor technology etc. in strategic sector and many projects in other fields of importance like chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, health, environmental engineering, information technology etc.

(c) Yes, Madam. The Government has established Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) through an Act of Parliament, viz. the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008 to enhance the level of basic research funding significantly in the country. The Board has taken significant decisions on R&D management for developing and nurturing science in the country. Board has strengthened the competitive mode of funding schemes with more operational flexibility to Project Investigators through rationalization of budget heads and has implemented prestigious fellowships with participatory contribution from industry and introduced S&T programmes for women scientists and weaker sections of society. Government has allocated Rs. 1130.0 crore to SERB in the last three financial years.

(d) Several new initiatives to promote indigenous research in S&T have been taken by the Government in the XII Plan period. This includes initiation of Water Technology Initiative, Solar Energy Research Initiative, Nano Mission (Phase-H), setting up Peta scale supercomputing facilities for various applications, Empowerment and Equity Opportunities for Excellence in Science Scheme to ensure enhanced participation of weaker sections of the society in research and development, Challenge Award for Global Positioning, Start-up Research grant for Indian Diaspora, Overseas Doctoral Scholarships and Post-doctoral Fellowships etc. Support to indigenous research in rural and scheduled areas are expanded through consortium mode of programme implementation and solution design. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing the indigenous research capability of the country.

(e) No foreign projects in S&T have been executed by any government agency in our country. However, Indian scientists and engineers are participating in building and using mega experimental facilities elsewhere in the world through international collaborations.