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Title: Need to give top priority to Science and Technology and developing a city of Andhra Pradesh as 'Science City'.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Sir, I want to raise a pertinent issue in this 'Zero Hour'.

The hon. Finance Minister presented the Union Budget on the National Science Day. The hon. Prime Minister expressed his concern over science and technology on the occasion of the National Science Day. Recently, the National Science Congress was also conducted in a grand manner in Mumbai. But I am sorry to say that the present Budget allocation for science and technology is not that much encouraging. Only seven per cent growth is shown in the Budget allocation. Inflation compensates this growth. We have to necessarily concentrate on research and development.

Our meritorious students are going abroad for research and development. We are mostly dependent upon foreign imports in the defence field. If we give thrust to research and development, we can control imports. In turn, we can save our foreign exchange. I request you to kindly give top priority to science and technology. I also request you to identify one of the cities in Andhra Pradesh as 'Science City' and develop it as a model science city and also as a destination for the future scientists.