

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: The Minister of Science and Technology laid a statement regarding Organization of India International Science Festival (IISF).

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): Madam, Speaker and hon. Members, I stand before the House to present about an upcoming momentous programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences. The India International Science Festival, popularly known as 'IISF', is all set to enter its third edition in October 2017. This festival of sciences is organized by the Ministry in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA). The first IISF was held at IIT, Delhi and the second edition was held at CSIR – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi. Both were successful events and my Ministry had succeeded in its objective of 'propagation of science to the general masses'.

Madam Speaker, the India International Science Festival is a serious attempt to inculcate scientific temper in the general public, particularly through the participation of the youth and children, to fast-track India's march towards technological self-reliance and scientific advancement. This festival of science highlights the Government flagship programmes such as "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan", Swasth Bharat Abhiyan", "Make in India", "Digital India", Smart Villages" "Smart Cities" etc.

In the first edition, we achieved the 'Guinness world record for the largest science practical session' which is now inscribed in India's name. IISF 2015 also provided a vibrant platform to young students, scientists and technocrats from all across India for exchange of scientific knowledge and ideas.

In the second edition of the 'Festival of Science' in 2016, several events like the Young Scientists Conclave, DST – INSPIRE National Camp, Science Film Festival, NGO meet, Industry-Academia Interaction were held at National Physical Laboratory, Delhi. A footfall of over 5 lakh people were recorded at the IISF 2016 with active participation of over 10,000 delegates from R&D institutions and science organisations.

HON. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I beg to lay the rest of the *Statement on the Table of the House.

