

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2018**

S&T SUPPORT TO RURAL AND WEAKER COMMUNITIES

***133. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:**

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has instituted any organisation/nodal agency to provide and coordinate science and technology (S&T) support to rural and weaker communities;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the amount allocated and spent during each of the last three years for application of S&T for the weaker sections in the country;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken steps to motivate scientists and research fellows for applying knowledge for the promotion of weaker communities; and**
- (e) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard so far?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री और पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.133 FOR 19/12/2018 REGARDING S&T SUPPORT TO RURAL AND WEAKER COMMUNITIES

(a) & (b): No, Madam. However, Ministry of Science & Technology has been supporting projects for the benefit of the rural and weaker communities which include SC/ST, women, *Divyangjan* and other backward communities through their societal development programmes. The programmes aim to promote and support Science and Technology inputs for livelihood improvement, self-employment generation, skill development and drudgery reduction among the target population by diffusion of proven and field-tested technologies. The broad focused areas supported under these programmes include agriculture and animal husbandry including fish farming, poultry farming, pig production, goat farming, value added products, floriculture, hybrid seed production, integrated farming system, entrepreneurship development, bio-resource utilization for sustainable development, development of assistive devices for divyangs, women and child health, hygiene and nutrition.

(c) The amount allocated and spent during each of the last 3 years for application of S&T for the weaker sections in the country are as follows:

Year	Budget (Rupees in crores) Allocated	Spent (Rupees in crores)
2015-16	182.48	151.65
2016-17	184.45	131.10
2017-18	189.86	138.51

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Science & Technology has taken steps to motivate scientists and researchers for applying knowledge of S&T processes, tools and technologies for promotion of the rural, SC/ST, women and weaker communities under its programmes for societal development. In this direction, the Ministry is operating the following programmes/schemes:

- **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement through Research Advancement through Nurturing)**
- **Science & Technology for Women**
- **Schedule Caste Sub Plan**
- **Tribal Sub Plan**
- **Technology Intervention for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE)**
- **Biotechnology based programme for societal development.**
- **'CSIR-800' scheme.**

Besides, State Councils for S&T are also encouraging location specific solutions for the upliftment of weaker section through S&T intervention.

For motivating Scientists to work on woman issues, National Awards for Women's Development through Application of Science & Technology has been instituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). While, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has instituted Biotechnology Social Development Award for recognizing the contribution of not only an individual scientist but also the organization who is working towards upliftment of rural and weaker communities.
