

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1732
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/2/2019**

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

1732. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the widespread criticism from the scientific community and students against the outlandish claims at the Indian Science Congress 2019 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has noted that the repeated misuse of Indian Science Congress has made it a mockery of science and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;**
- (c) whether the Government asked any explanation from the organizers;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) whether the Government will take necessary action for not repeating such incidents in an event like Science Congress which gets global attention and if so, the details thereof?**

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) & (b): Yes Madam. The government has taken note of media reports and criticism from the scientific community regarding some statements made by the participants during the Science Congress 2019. Science Congress over the years has transformed into a single largest grassroots scientific event in the country which is attended by scientists, teachers and students from a wide variety of institutions. The level of scientific discussions also range from lectures by the Nobel Laureates to popular science lectures. This is also a fact that a lot of good things happen during the Science Congress but some astray incidents are blown out of proportions by the media. Being a mammoth scientific event, widely different scientific ideas are expressed freely during the Congress. In spite of some criticism in the media, the fact remains that Science Congress serves a unique and valuable purpose by providing a common platform to thousands of scientists, researchers and students to interact and exchange ideas on a variety of science subjects.

(c) to (e): The issue has already been deliberated in the Executive Committee meeting of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) on 7th January 2019 and it has been decided that from now onwards, for sessions like meeting with Scientists at Children Science Congress session during the Indian Science Congress, it will be mandatory for the Scientists to submit a summary of their talk and Scientists from ISCA will monitor their talk in such sessions.
