

prominently due to the traditional behavioral pattern and lack of awareness of the people about the associated health hazards. To tackle this issue, the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has been restructured to a community led and people centered approach. The programme gives emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for demand generation for sanitation facilities. It also lays emphasis on school sanitation and hygiene education for bringing about attitudinal and behavioral changes for relevant sanitation and hygiene practices from young age itself. The programme also develops convergence with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (SSA) for awareness creation and hygiene education among the people and children in the rural areas.

Upgradation of roads in Kerala under PMGSY

2156. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the funds allocated by the Centre for upgradation of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise; and

the details of works done during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Normative allocation of funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and funds released to Kerala during the last three years are as under:

| S.No. | Year | Normative Allocation (Rs. in crore) | Amount released (Rs. in crore) |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2005-06 | 25.00 | 42.41 |
| 2 | 2006-07 | 25.00 | 15.00 |
| 3 | 2007-08 | 30.00 | 10.595 |

(b) The State Government has upgraded the roads during the last three years as under:

| S.No. | Year | Roads upgraded (in Km.) |
|-------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2005-06 | 51.276 |
| 2 | 2006-07 | 78.890 |
| 3 | 2007-08 | 75.377 |

95th Indian Science Congress

2157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether 95th Indian Science Congress was held recently;

if so, the details thereof; and

the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL S. IBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 95th Session of the Indian Science Congress was held at Visakhapatnam from 3rd to 7th January, 2008. During the session, various issues were discussed which include (1) Biotechnology for well-being of all (2) Space Technology for knowledge (3) Biodiversity

(4) Transportation (5) Genomics & Society (6) Nanotechnology (7) Evergreen Revolution (8) Coping with water scarcity (9) Renewable Energy (10) Science Education Content, Presentation & Purpose (11) Technology challenges for Domestic Water Security in Rural India (12) Bioinformatics Science (13) Sustainability Science (14) Oceanography & Ocean Technology (15) Current status of Viral Diseases & Control, Novel Management Strategies (16) Public/Private/Industry interaction (17) Defence Science & Technologies (18) Biomedicine in Medical Research (19) Stem Cells & Gene Therapy (20) E-learning, E-Governance and Tele-Medicine (21) Science Promotion: International Collaboration (22) India's Energy Security (23) Science for School children. Suggestions emerged on Food and Nutrition Security, Gender Justice and Gender equality, water security, Biotechnology, Climate change and Sea Level rise, Energy, Mass transportation, etc.

Less Number of Researchers in Field of S&T

2158. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether India has less than 3 lakhs researchers in field of Science and Technology whereas many developing countries have more than 10 lakhs researchers in field of Science and Technology;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government has any proposal to encourage/promote young scientists including students who discover and continue to research with their new technologies;

whether Government organize competition to trace out such talents; and

if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to increase the number of researchers in Science and Technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) According to the available official statistics, there are 1,15,936 researchers in Science and Technology in India whereas other developing countries such as Argentina, Brazil and China have 26,455, 55,728 and 8,05,176 respectively.

(c) to (e) The Government have taken various steps to encourage young scientists including students for pursuing research in Science and Technology. The various measures taken from time to time to trace and promote the talent are:

Programmes targeted towards talented students:

Children's Science Congress

National Science Olympiad Programme

Kishore Vaigyanik Prothshahan Yojana (KVPY)

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) launched in XI Plan includes (i) Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS) (ii) Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) (iii) Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC).

Setting up of Institutes offering integrated MS and Ph.D. degree through National Competitive Entrance Examinations such as National Institute of Science Education