

**Raising standard of Scientific Research**

1105. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13th November, 1999 under the caption Indian Scientific Research Ragging which paints a despondent picture about the research activities in the industrial, scientific and educational establishments in our country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps proposed to step up the standard of research and scientific studies in various universities and centres of advance learning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIBACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have always placed high emphasis on constantly improving standards of research and development actively. Some recent initiatives relating to young scientist and science education are: the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, the Swarnajayanti Fellowships, biotechnology Fellowships and the proposed Fund for Improvement of Infrastructure in Universities and other higher educational institutions.

**Centre for Research and Development of Information Products**

1106. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has initiated steps to set up the Centre for Research and Development of Information Products;

(b) if so, the number of officials, Scientific, Technical and Administrative, associated for the above project during April, 1997 to October, 1999, year-wise;

(c) the grant sanctioned and that utilised for the above during the period 1997-2000, year-wise; and

(d) if so, the details of information products released or in the process to release till October, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes sir, a Unit for Research & Development of Information products at Pune has been set up by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).