

Expenditure on Science and Technology

1830. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of money spent in India on Science and Technology is significantly lower than that spent in other countries; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) and (b) According to published official statistics for 1996-97, research and Development expenditure in India as a proportion of the Gross National Product (GNP) is higher in comparison with several developing countries such as Brazil, Egypt, China, Argentina, Philippines and Indonesia although it is lower in comparison with developed countries like Sweden, Japan, USA, Germany, France, UK, Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Singapore. The Government has been encouraging investment on R&D both in industry and institutions through several fiscal incentives and other support measures such as income tax relief on R&D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, Custom Duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R&D projects, five year tax holiday for commercial R&D companies and National Awards for outstanding R&D.

Research programmes in Biotechnology

1831. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state-

(a) the names of various ongoing research and applied programmes under the Department of Biotechnology and status of their implementation, State-wise; and