

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

(b) the names of biotechnology related projects received from Assam, including various Universities of the State, the projects already sanctioned till March, 1999 and those awaiting clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) the Department of Biotechnology is supporting approx. 500 R&D, Demonstration and application based programmes across the country at various Central and State Research Institute and Universities. The programmes are mainly in the area of Agriculture, Environment, Biodiversity, Integrated Nutrient Management, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Basic Research, Health Care, Human Genetics, Animal and Aquaculture, Special programme for societal benefit, Industrial Biotechnology, Human Resource Development and Bioinformatics. Some of the State are also implementing about 15 projects through their State S&T Councils mainly in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Sikkim.

(b) In the State of Assam, in the above mentioned areas, 21 ongoing projects are being supported at different Research Institutes and Universities and 6 projects are under consideration. More details about specific projects are contained in the Annual Report of the Department.

Recruitment of Technical Officer by CSIR

1832- SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) used to recruit Technical Officer E through direct recruitment;