

(b) No blue prints of the device were submitted to NRDC by the inventor while applying for the prize award.

#### Quality of research programmes

2128. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report to Parliament in 1997 which raised questions not only about the quality and quantity of research programmes undertaken by research institutions, but also about the administrative competence and fiscal discipline of these institutions;

(b) whether several research institutions have allowed projects on hand to drag on for years, or wound up some of them mid-way, without assigning any reasons; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Research projects entail high uncertainty and risks unlike developmental projects. Thus not only their administrative and fiscal management differs from that of developmental projects but also their continuance or otherwise depends on the intermediary outputs/results.

Different government R&D institutions adopt differing mechanisms to review the outputs of research projects depending upon their special endowments. For example in CSIR every laboratory has a Research Council (RC), having expert members drawn from industry, academia, R&D, government etc. which review and recommend further course of action on projects. CSIR has further strengthened the monitoring of research projects in the laboratories by requiring every laboratory to review and monitor their ongoing projects annually in April for their continuance or otherwise, especially of projects continuing for more than 3 years; and any project to be continued beyond 5 years requires special approval.

12 Noon

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th June, 1998 to the Starred Question 248 regarding Development of Science

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, on 12th June, 1998 Shri Raj Babbar raised a question. His question was:

"Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has given a slogan of 'Jai vigyan'; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the development of science?"

The answer was:

"(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Prime Minister during his speech at the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize distribution function held on the 25th May, 1998 outlined a number of steps to convert the slogan — 'JAI VIGYAN' into action by making the following specific suggestions for consideration of the Scientific community, industry and policy makers in the Government to:

- (i) make science and scientific temper an integral part of national life
- (ii) reform science education at school level to promote creativity
- (iii) make science central to planning process
- (iv) enhance the intellectual and psychic income of our young scientists and recognise and respect the achievements of talented scientists
- (v) synergise and create knowledge networks
- (vi) promote R&D in and by industry
- (vii) focus and concentrate on select areas to achieve global excellence and leadership
- (viii) enhance the use of Information Technology through a national campaign
- (ix) create an intellectual property movement
- (x) debureaucratise scientific institutions