

Scientific temperament

2959. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any steps for emphasizing the need for inculcating a scientific temperament among the youth for creating a better tomorrow especially for SC/ST people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has implemented several initiatives for inculcating scientific temperament among the youth, including SC/ST communities. Countrywide science communication campaigns, exhibitions and competitions, folk forms, radio and television programmes are creatively utilized to reduce the impact of myths and superstitions and encourage rational approach amongst masses. Issues of water, sanitation and hygiene form the core of annual campaigns in selected areas. Community radio has been harnessed to address needs of SC/ST groups with special programmes in about 20 locations.

Indian economic structure

2960. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that science and technology has been in the forefront of transforming the Indian economic structure, helping the country to evolve as a globally competitive economic powerhouse;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this direction in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Indian economy has undergone a structural change over the last decade, with shares of agriculture, manufacturing services in the gross domestic product (GDP) changing from 28.52%, 24.37% and 47.11% respectively in 1997-98 to 20.83% and 52.39% respectively in 2007-08. The share of merchandise trade in GDP increased from 20.28% to 38.61% over the same and India's share in world exports increased from 0.5% in 1990 to 1.1% in 2006.

Science and Technology has played an important role in bringing about this transformation in Indian economy, which is showing from a predominantly agriculture based economy to manufacturing and services based economy and is now increasingly integrated the world