

US patents granted to Indian inventors has been increasing—from 88 in 2000-01 to 229 in 2004-05. We, however, need to progress even faster to catch up with other countries like China and South Korea which have recorded faster growth in recent times.

Indian science has also played invaluable role in solving national problems and meeting national needs. The Green and the White Revolution have converted India into a food surplus country. Our capabilities in the areas of space and nuclear research and well-known examples of what Indian science has achieved. More recently, the Indian scientists and technologists have demonstrated their capabilities in several areas of emerging technologies such as the production of the first genetically engineered Hepatitis-B Vaccine, the indigenous development of small civilian aircrafts, ocean-based desalination plants for fresh drinking water, development of new drugs for diseases of importance to this country, such as tuberculosis, etc. These achievements indeed place India on a platform of confidence as we enter the 21st century. We foresee major developments through public-private partnerships resulting in increased allocation of resources of scientific research and thus to increased contribution to the national economy.

(b) No, Sir. The Central Scientific Departments, during 2005-06 and 2006-07, have utilized over 80% of funds provided for research in science and technology.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of District Science Centres in U.P.

†2998. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in which District Science Centres have been opened till year 2006 in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) by when such centres will be opened in the districts wherein such Centre has not been established till date?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.