Indo-German Science and Technology Centre

1277. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Germany have mutually agreed to set-up Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the place where it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Each country has committed to contribute an equivalent amount of two million euro (approximately Rs. 13 crores) per year for initial period of five years. The Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) shall be registered as "Society" under societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860, Punjab Amendment Act 1957) as extended to NCR Delhi. It shall be governed by a Governing Body (GB) which will have equal members from India and Germany. The members of GB shall be from Government, academia and industry from both the countries. The IGSTC shall be steered by an Indian Director nominated by Government of India. The objectives of the IGSTC are to play a pro-active role to;

(i) facilitate participation of industry in joint research and development projects.

(ii) provide/assist in mobilizing resources to carry out industrial research and development projects,

(iii) facilitate and promote Indo-German bilateral collaborations in basic and applied science, research and technology through substantive interaction among Government, academia and industry,

(iv) encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) to foster elements of innovation, application and cultivate a culture of cooperation between science and industry and

(v) develop cooperation through the identification of scientists and scientific institutions of the two countries.

(c) Presently, IGSTC shall operate from a rented building in Gurgaon.

Nano Mission

1278. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has launched the Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total allocation made therefor; and

(d) whether any research activities by universities are also included in the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India launched a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) on 3rd May 2007. Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal agency for implementing Nano Mission. Aims of the Nano Mission are to:

(i) promote Basic Research and Human Resource Development;

(ii) establish centres of excellence and sophisticated research facilities, promote applications and technology development by encouraging industry by way of grants and soft loans to undertake such work on its own or in collaboration with academic and research institutions;

(iii) promote entrepreneurship by extending grants and soft loans to start-ups and through establishment of Technology Business Incubators and

(iv) forge international collaborations wherever necessary.

Under the Nano Mission, and the earlier Nano Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI) of DST, several initiatives have been taken. These are:

(i) an Institute of Nano Science and Technology has been established at Mohali as a new grant-in-aid institution of DST at a total cost of Rs. 142.50 crore for 5 years. This institute will focus on agri- and bio-nano technologies.

(ii) an Ultra High Resolution Aberration Corrected Transmission Electron Microscope has been installed as a national facility at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. There are only 25-30 such facilities in the world. This would enable our scientists to look at nano-scale systems with sub-angstrom resolution and give them added international competitive edge.

(iii) an international collaboration front, an India-Japan beamline has been established at the Photon Factory, KEY, Tsukuba, Japan.

(iv) three major centres in nano-electronics have been established at IIT-Bombay, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and IIT-Kharagpur and one more is being established at IIT-Delhi.

(v) two Research and Development projects have been supported in network mode at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur on applications of nano-technology in health and advanced materials respectively.

(vi) twelve centres of excellence in Nano Science and seven centres of excellence in Nano Technology have been established by strengthening the research infrastructure in existing academic and research institutions in the country.

(vii) the mission has also started M.Sc./M.Tech. programmes in Nano Science and Technology in 15 institutions across the country. A large number of post-doctoral fellowships have been sanctioned in the search-cum-selection mode to tap available talent immediately.

(viii) four advanced schools have been held and four international conferences on Nano Science and Technology have also been organized. Joint Industry-Institute linked projects have been funded focusing on definite end-products like nano fillers for tyre applications, functional textiles, nano-sized oxide powers and drug delivery, etc.

(c) Total allocation for the Nano Mission is Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years.

(d) Yes. The Mission strongly supports research activities in Universities. Out of total 224 projects supported so far, 89 projects have been sanctioned to Universities *i.e.* 40% of the total projects supported so far.

Vacant posts of Surveyor General

†1279. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Surveyor General in country's prestigious Survey of India is lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that nearly 10,000 employees are finding it difficult to discharge their duties because of this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for appointment of Surveyor General of India, Survey of India has been sent to Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) for its approval on 2nd July, 2010. On receipt of approval of ACC, Surveyor General of India will be appointed.

(c) and (d) At present, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), is holding the additional charge for the post of Surveyor General of India. The organization is working under his guidance and supervision.

Residential schools for SC/ST students

1280. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of residential schools which are presently running for the students of SC/ST all over the country; State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any plan to establish some more residential schools for SC/ST students in the State; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.