

(c) if not, whether the Department of Science and Technology is planning any major project in this area?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Department of Science and Technology does not have any plan to take up any major project in the said area.

**Special scheme to popularize science and technology**

3556. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special scheme to popularize science and technology amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner science and technology is being popularized in North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Popularization of science and technology among all sections of the society and states is a major focus area of National Science and Technology Communication Council (NSTCC), Vigyan Prasar and many laboratories of Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). Some of these activities address the general community. However, dedicated programmes have been organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST). These programmes are delivered through community based organizations with a focus on application of science and technology for adding value to locally available natural resources. Training workshops and science awareness activities are conducted for social groups belonging to these communities. Popularization of science among the SC/ST population is coupled also to skill development, technology information, capacity enhancement and knowledge about value addition to locally available natural resources. On an average, 20 programmes per year are being organised to address exclusively the science and technology initiatives for SC/ST population.

(c) North Eastern Region has gained special attention from the Ministry of Science and Technology for special interventions. DST has developed a special package for promoting science education in colleges in the North Eastern Region. Support has been extended to 58 colleges for the upgradation of laboratory facilities for science education. The ministry has been organising and supporting several flagship programmes in the NE region such as National Children Science Congress; Regional Orientation Programme on "Understanding Planet Earth"; National Science Day programmes; Motivational programmes for talented students; Training courses on science writing/journalism, etc. During 2009-10, more than 40 projects on science popularization for NE region have been supported. CSIR has been conducting a CSIR-Programme on Youth for Leadership in Science (OPYLS) for the students of NE states through North-East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented programmes for supporting education in life sciences and biotechnology areas. Special programmes for adding values to natural resources from the region have been conducted by DBT.

#### **Framework for biosimilars**

3557. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential in the country for biopharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is no regulatory framework for biosimilars in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make institutional framework and legal system?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam. There is a great potential in the country for biopharmaceutical industry.

(b) and (c) There is a well established regulatory framework for biosimilars in the country under Rules 1989 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and Rules 1945 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Government of India is actively involved in updating all guidelines and framework for such type of biologics.