

Gap between India and China in science and technology sector

*76. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has been far ahead of India in the field of science, research and technology during the last decade;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the wide gap between the two countries has only deepened over the last few years;
- (c) whether China has invested about 2.5 per cent of its GDP during the last year in science and technology projects; and
- (d) why India is still aspiring to ramp it up from the current 0.9 per cent to 2 per cent by 2017?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) and (b) China has been investing significant national resources in GDP during the last decade in scientific research and technological development and in terms of certain science and technology parameters has taken a lead over India. However, Government has since taken a series of measures to bridge the technological gap in certain key areas such as supercomputing, open source drug discovery, nano-technology etc.

(c) According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Main Science and Technology Indicators 2011 Report, China spent 1.7% of GDP in 2009 on scientific research and development.

(d) The national Research and Development (R and D) expenditure is around 0.09% of GDP of which three-fourth is contributed by the public sector and one-fourth by the private sector. To align Science and Technology with the national development goals, in principle, a decision to increase national R and D expenditure from current level of 0.9% to 2% of GDP has been taken together with enhanced participation from private sector by 2017. This is more than double the expenditure over the past years and represents a significant allocation of resources considering the overall resources of the country.

Second phase of JNNSM

*77. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has scaled up the second phase of Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (2013-17) target from 3,000 MW to 9,000 MW and is mulling fresh incentives for potential investors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Rs. 1.08 lakh crores would be invested in the second phase of the Mission; and