

belong to BPL category and taking into view the difficulty in mobilization of resources the beneficiaries are facilitated to complete the houses within a maximum period of 3 years.

(d) Under Indira Awas Yojana, strict monitoring is done to ensure efficient and proper implementation of the scheme. This monitoring is done through various mechanisms such as monthly and annual progress reports, audit reports, periodical review meetings with the officers of the State Governments, field visits by Officers of the Ministry and visits of NLMs etc. Management Information System (MIS) AWAASsoft has been launched to impart total transparency in the programme.

Expenditure on Research and Development

746. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total spending as percentage of GDP towards Research and Development has remained stagnant at 0.9 per cent, whereas China directs around 1.42 per cent of its much larger GDP towards R&D;

(b) if so, whether any increased percentage of our continuously dwindling GDP is proposed especially in view of the serious concern expressed by the Prime Minister at the 99th Indian Science Congress held during January, 2012; and

(c) what is the perspective planning in this regard during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) According to the latest official statistics, the present level of spending as percentage of GDP towards Research and Development (R&D) in the country is around 0.9% whereas China spends around 1.7%. The national R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP has increased over a decade from 0.67% to 0.87%.

(b) and (c) According to the Prime Minister's Address at 99th Indian Science Congress in January, 2012, the Government aims at increasing the total R&D spending as percentage of GDP to 2% by the end of Twelfth Plan period from the current level of about 0.9 per cent. The Government proposes to achieve the targeted goal during the Twelfth Plan period through various measures such as policy changes, increase in investment in R&D including by Industry and Strategic sectors, expansion of basic science infrastructure, aligning S&T to development needs like food and

health care, evolving new models of public-private-partnership in scientific research, encouraging international collaboration etc.

Schemes for welfare of persons with disabilities

747. SHRI A. A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes for the welfare of persons with disabilities in the country;
- (b) whether Government has ever made any investigation to see that whether the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities in various Ministers/Corporations/ other semi-Government institutions have been filled by the end of the year 2011;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI PORIKA BALRAM NAIK): (a) Details of Scheme being run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the organizations under it for the welfare of the persons with disabilities is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) to (d) The Department of Personnel and Training had launched a Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of persons with Disabilities. The Drive ended on 31.3.2012. As per information received from various Ministries/Departments, 2388 backlog reserved vacancies for Persons with Disabilities were filled up.

Statement

Details of Schemes being run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the organizations under it for persons with disabilities

A. Schemes implemented by the Department of Disability Affairs

I. Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), grant-in-aid is provided to NGOs running projects for the welfare of persons with Disabilities.