

The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Planning Commission. Besides, in the current Council of Ministers, the MoS (Planning) has been given Independent Charge. The officials of Planning Commission are discharging their duties under the overall supervision and guidance of the Secretary, Planning Commission. These arrangements ensure that the works relating to Five Year Plan, Mid Term Review, evaluation and appraisal of projects and proposals etc. are attended to without any delay.

Funds allocated for research and development

3165. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated for research and development during the last two years and the current year and utilised so far, institution-wise;
- (b) the details of the number of innovations recorded during the last three years, year and field-wise;
- (c) whether the research institutions in the country have failed to provide adequate facilities and inspire the youth to undertake innovations in the field of science and technology, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to promote innovations in the field of science and technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Achievements of NInC and NIF

3166. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has felt the need of an integrated and coordinated approach involving all Central Ministries and State Governments with the Ministry of Science and Technology to promote innovative research in specific areas and to strengthen the science education and research, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether National Innovation Council (NInC) and National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF) have not been able to meet their objectives, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the details of the achievements of NInC and NIF for the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Towards an integrated and

coordinated approach to promote innovative research in specific areas and to strengthen the science education and research, the Government has constituted Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an Autonomous Body under Department of Science and Technology. The Governing Council of TIFAC receives representations from various Ministries/ Departments, such as Department of Atomic Energy, Planning Commission, Department of Bio-Technology, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Institutions such as CSIR, DRDO, National Institute of Immunology, University of Delhi and others. Besides, the Ministry has set up Inter-Sectoral Science and Technology Advisory Committee (ISSTAC) with Ministries of Steel, Mines, Coal and Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, which makes recommendations on matters concerning inter-disciplinary research through Science and Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) groups set up in these ministries having techno-commercial domains. Further, the Department of Science and Technology has created a live portal (<http://www.techport.gov.in>) to interact between S&T Departments and Agencies of Government of India (at the source end) and various State Governments (at the user end) to provide technological connectivity for developmental processes. Through this portal, the S&T Departments and Agencies (technology providers) can publish any new technology contents, as and when desired/ready. The State Governments can also request their specific problems and technology needs as a challenge to S&T Establishments to work for specific technological solutions. CSIR has also partnered with the National Innovation Council (NInC) to provide S&T interventions needed for enhancing the technological base of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). CSIR has provided technological solutions for three clusters for the purpose namely (i) Mango Cluster, Krishnagiri (ii) Brass Cluster, Moradabad and (iii) Bamboo Cluster, Agartala.

(b) and (c) National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF) have been able to meet its objectives. Its achievements during for last three years and current year are as under:

Major activities	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
1	2	3	4	5
Number of ideas/innovations/ traditional knowledge scouted	20000	22000	20470	2500
Validation and value addition in Grassroots innovations/outstanding traditional knowledge	120	240	335	70
IPR protection related activities (filing of direct patents), design registrations, trademarks etc.	297	100	119	18

1	2	3	4	5
Marketing rights/ Licensing undertaken	5	5	14	1
Successful and periodic publication of articles, booklets, stories, Award books, stories in electronic media etc.	137	167	142	47
National Presidential Awards for green grassroots innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge at Rashtrapati Bhavan	Yes	Yes	--	Proposed
Innovation Exhibition at Mughal Garden, Rashtrapati Bhavan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Proposed
"IGNITE" National Awards for school students, given by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Proposed
Setup Community workshops at Innovator's place	21	5	2	--

NIF developed mobile irrigation system for providing irrigation at critical stage and declared it an open source. The mobile irrigation system was successfully demonstrated in the Vidarbha area of Maharashtra. First US patent (US Patent 8,445,033) was granted to a grassroots traditional knowledge holder, Late Shri Shatrughan Prasad Vaidya, for his unique herbal knowledge.

The information in respect of National Innovation Council (NInC) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fixed percentage of budget for SC/OBC

†3167. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ensure that a fixed percentage of amount from the Union Budget is spent on the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government has constituted any working group in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) As informed by the Planning Commission, it has issued guidelines on Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) in the year 2006, to Central Ministries/Departments with the basic objective to channelize the flow of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.