

Grant (individual centric), Young Scientist Project Scheme and Research Fellowship. In addition, several University Departments in Gujarat have received support through Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST) to build research infrastructure for enhancing research capabilities. Through the State Science and Technology Programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Gujarat State S&T Council is also supported to equip them with S&T manpower and office infrastructure to address the State level S&T issues.

(b) and (c) Several academic institutions such as The M.S. University of Baroda, Saurashtra University, Central University of Gujarat, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Gujarat Forensic Science University, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhi Nagar, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology Surat etc. and R&D Institutions such as CSIR- Central Salt Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Indian Centre for Climate and Societal Impacts Research, Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Directorate of Groundnut Research, Physical Research Laboratory, Institute of Seismological Research etc. received project based support from the Government. Most of the Schemes under Ministry of Science and Technology do not have State-wise or Institute-wise allocations and financial assistance is dependent on proposals received and approved. Consequent to this, funds released to various research institutions based in Gujarat by the Ministry of Science and Technology in each of the past three years (2012-15) are ₹ 122.99 crore, ₹ 112.99 crore and ₹ 104.69 crore respectively. The number of research projects entrusted to these institutions during the said period are 55, 67 and 62 respectively. In addition, CSIR-CSMCRI has been entrusted with 24 theme based projects during this period.

### **Progress in Clean Energy and Water Mission**

1534. PROF. M. V. RAJEEVGOWDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in promotion and operationalization of the Technology Mission on Clean Energy and Water, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any fund allocation has been done under this mission in the past one year, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) The Technology Mission on Clean Energy was initiated as solar energy research initiative in 2009. In 2015-16, the programme was rechristened as clean energy research initiative and projects on building energy efficiency, smart energy grids and energy storage were also included

in the ambit of the programme. The Mission has supported 136 research projects, 160 research professionals, 2 advanced research facilities at industrial scale for achieving higher solar efficiency and test beds for decentralized power generation and cogeneration such as power, cooling, desalination etc. through national, bilateral and multilateral programs at a cost of ₹ 225 crores.

The Technology Mission on Water has addressed 19 water challenges pertaining to problems of water availability, water quality and water recycle in 25 clusters directly benefiting 212 villages from 23 States. So far, 200 R&D projects have been supported under mission and allied activities at a total cost of ₹ 125.16 crore. The Mission Programme has leveraged global experience through Indo-EU partnership and Dutch India Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative (DIWALI) for developing cost optimized water solutions.

(b) An allocation of ₹ 67 crores was made for Technology Mission on Clean Energy and Water during 2014-15. The allocation during the current year *i.e.* 2015-16 also remains the same.

#### **Comprehensive plan for fresh entrants of labour**

1535. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for 10.4 crore fresh entrants who will be entering labour market between 2015-2022 under Skill India Mission, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Government has taken several additional measures to scale skilling with speed and standards in the country. This includes:

- (i) The National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015 which provides an umbrella framework to all skilling activities including skill development Scheme/programme being carried out within the country.
- (ii) A National Skill Development Mission which seeks to converge, coordinate, implement and monitor skilling activities on a pan-India basis. The Institutional framework of the National Skill Development Mission has been put in place with constitution of the Governing Council headed by the Prime Minister, Steering Committee chaired by Minister, SDE and Executive Committee.