

**India based neutrino observatory**

1385. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of work on India based Neutrino Observatory;
- (b) the timeline, budget, scheme of financing and objectives of the laboratory; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to establish additional laboratories for nuclear physics research in India, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Sir, the work at Pottipuram site of India based Neutrino Observatory is stalled at present due to orders of Madurai bench of the Hon'ble Madras High Court.

(b) It will take about 5 years to start the scientific experiments in the laboratory. The total cost of the project is ₹ 1583.05 crores. Out of this, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) will bear all the costs related to laboratory infrastructure while the cost of the main detector will be shared equally between DAE and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The objectives of the laboratory are; to study the properties of the fundamental particle, the neutrino; develop skilled human resources for carrying out front ranking experimental programmes in the area of particle and nuclear physics; and development of State-of-the-art particle detectors for basic science and societal application including medical imaging.

(c) At present, there is no proposal with this Ministry to establish additional laboratories for nuclear physics research in India.

**Country's contribution in field of science and technology**

†1386. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present India's level of contribution in the field of science and technology at the international level from the research point of view is not up to the mark, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is necessary to strengthen and update the basic infrastructure in order to encourage scientific research in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of the steps taken by Government in this direction during the last two years including the results thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.