

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Research on yoga and meditation**

3930. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has identified yoga and meditation as an exclusive area of scientific research under a scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the response of the scientific community ever since the scheme was introduced; and

(c) what is the progress made, so far, under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 2015-16, Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched a new programme 'Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM)' as an exclusive area of scientific research under the Cognitive Science Research Initiative scheme. The primary objectives of SATYAM include scientific validation of traditional practices of yoga and meditation and to support interdisciplinary projects to study the efficacy of yoga and meditation to address various challenges confronting physical and mental health. Since its inception, DST has made two Calls for Proposals under SATYAM in 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively. This new initiative received overwhelming response from the scientific community and DST received 834 research proposals from academic institutions, medical fraternity, national laboratories, non-government organizations, practitioners, science and technology agencies, and so on from across the country.

(c) Department of Science and Technology sanctioned budgetary support to 21 research projects received against Call for Proposals in 2015-16. Another 23 projects have been recommended for support from the proposals received in 2016-17.

**Bio-technology boards in Bihar and Jharkhand**

†3931. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to establish bio-technology boards in all the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.