

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking of DBT.

(c) DBT and BIRAC are facilitating the start-ups for commercializing their innovative products by providing them showcasing opportunities in national/international forums, facilitating access to Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and connecting with the State Governments etc.

(d) The Products developed are for both national and global markets.

(e) DBT and BIRAC are providing funding support, incubation, technical and business mentoring, regulatory support, etc. for developing low cost medical innovations to start-ups and entrepreneurs.

#### **S&T cooperation agreements with other countries**

2204. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has signed any Inter-Governmental Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreements with other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years along with the status of those agreements, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Department of Science & Technology has presently Inter-Government Science & Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreement with 80 countries.

(b) Inter-Government S&T Cooperation Agreements / MoUs have been signed with Denmark and Indonesia, both in May 2018 to encourage and facilitate developing cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation with these countries in the mutually identified areas. The Agreement with Denmark has come into operation with announcing of a joint call for R&D proposals covering areas of energy and water.

#### **Capacity utilisation at VOC Port**

2205. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total capacity utilisation and income generated during the last three years of VOC Port, Tuticorin has improved to a considerable extent;