

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;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has undertaken any developmental activity or initiated new projects at VOC Port, Tuticorin;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Total capacity utilization of V.O. Chidambaranar Port has reduced during 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 and 2015-16 due to reduction of import of thermal coal, Fertilizers, Fertilizers raw material, Industrial Coal and Wheat and reduction in export of construction material.

The details regarding capacity utilization and income generated by V.O. Chidambaranar Port for the last three years are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Year	Total Capacity (in MMT)	Actual Capacity Utilized (in MMT)	Capacity Utilization (in Percentage)	Operating Income (Rupees in Crores)
1.	2015-16	44.55	36.85	82.72%	550.99
2.	2016-17	46.78	38.46	82.21%	597.93
3.	2017-18	65.90	36.58	55.51%	614.84
					(Unaudited)

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated the following projects at V.O. Chidambaranar Port:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1.	Construction of dedicated berth for handling coastal cargo at VOCPT
2.	Construction of shallow berth for handling construction materials at VOCPT
3.	Construction of North Cargo Berth-III.
4.	Upgradation of Coal Jetty I & II including Retrofitting works at VOCPT

(e) Does not arise.