

representatives, farmers, educationists and others to ascertain the emerging development needs of the people so as to link the research agenda to the same, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy-2013 is in place. Apart from the other aspirations the policy envisages enhancing skill for applications of science among the young from all social strata, linking contributions of science, research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance, and enabling conversion of Research and Development (R&D) outputs into societal and commercial applications.

(b) The Science and Technology establishments in the country interact regularly to ascertain the emerging development needs of the people. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has been providing its S&T knowledge base needed for the benefit of the Nation, its industries, including Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the common people. The efforts of CSIR are focused at bringing in desired S&T interventions for enhancing the socio-economic development in country while also improving the quality of life, removing drudgery and augmenting income of the people. The focused R&D efforts of CSIR have led to the development of several S&T interventions in diverse areas that include environment, health, drinking water, food, housing, energy, specialty chemicals & petrochemicals, glass & ceramics, medicinal plants & plants of economic value, leather, mining, metals & minerals, machinery & instrumentation, strategic sectors including aerospace etc. CSIR laboratories also interact with the relevant Ministries/ Depts./State Governments regularly in understanding and responding to their specific needs.

The Department of Science & Technology nurtures 25 Autonomous Institutions and Professional bodies under its administrative control. The Department of Biotechnology also nurtures 15 Autonomous Institutions under its administrative control. These institutions continued to carry out front-ranking research in diverse areas of basic science, advance materials, biotechnology and bio-medical technologies for the benefit of the people.

#### **Introduction of double time zone in the country**

1091. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on introducing double time zones in the country and a study is being conducted under the guidance of DST in this direction to

look into the possibilities to double time zones in the country, keeping in view the difficulties faced in adopting single time zone, as there is much time difference between Eastern and Western parts of India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department had set-up a High Level Committee in 2002 that had recommended not to implement two-time zones due to several complexities involved in the process. The Committee, in order to meet the objectives of gainfully utilizing the morning hours and to provide better recreational avenues during evening hours, had recommended advancing work timings suitably in the Eastern and North-Eastern States. Accordingly, an advisory was issued to Eastern and North Eastern States to consider advancing work timings suitably.

### **Expenditure on R&D in India**

1092. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's gross research spending has consistently increased over the years, but the country's expenditure on Research and Development continued to be less than one per cent of its GDP while emerging economies, including China and Brazil, invest more under this head;
- (b) whether it is a fact that most developed countries spent more than two per cent of their GDP on R&D;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India's spending was least among the BRICS nations; and
- (d) if so, whether Government is considering to enhance the spending on R&D in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes Sir. India's national expenditure on research & development has been increasing consistently over the years and has tripled in a decade