

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

from Rs 24,117.24 crores in 2004-05 to Rs 85,326.10 crores in 2014-15. It is estimated to be Rs 94,516.45 crores in 2015-16 and Rs 1,04,864.03 crores in 2016-17. However, India's spending on R&D is 0.69 percent of GDP which is below China (2.0%) and Brazil (1.24%).

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No Sir. As per available statistics, India's spending on R&D is more than Brazil, Russia and South Africa except China as per Table given below:

BRICS Countries	Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa
Billion current PPP\$	39.7	44.5	50.3	368.6	4.8

(d) Increasing percentage of R&D to 2% of the GDP has been a national goal for some time with enhanced participation, in R&D, from private sector.

#### **Financial support for development of water transport**

1093. SHRI N. GOKULA KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received ₹2,000 crore for development of water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that operationalising at least 10 of the 111 national waterways is on the top of Government's agenda; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government has got a budget allocation of ₹ 228.00 crore for the development of inland waterways transport, which also includes ₹ 126.00 crore for North Eastern Region, for the year 2017-18. The proposal for raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBRs) of ₹ 1,000 crore through bonds was approved by Ministry of Finance in 2016-17. Out of Rs 1000 crore, ₹ 340.00 crore was raised during 2016-17. Remaining amount of Rs 660.00 crore has been raised in the Financial Year 2017-18.

(c) and (d) Out of 111 National Waterways declared by the Government through the National Waterways Act, 2016, National Waterway-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia), National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra from Dhubri