

Investment in Science and Technology

†1560. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product being spent on augmenting the infrastructure in the field of Science and Technology in the country;

(b) whether the current level of investment of Gross Domestic Product is inadequate to meet the requirements of this sector; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) The percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being spent on augmenting the infrastructure in S&T for the country is 0.69%.

(b) India's national expenditure on research and development has been increasing consistently over the years and tripled in a decade from ₹ 24,117.24 crores in 2004-05 to ₹ 85,326.10 crores in 2014-15. It is estimated to be ₹ 94,516.45 crores in 2015-16 and ₹ 1,04,864.03 crores in 2016-17. However, in terms of GDP, the current level of investment in R&D has hovered around 0.70% during the decade.

(c) The Government has been constantly engaged in the promotion and growth of scientific research in the country through various measures such as successive increase in plan allocations for scientific departments, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of Centres of Excellence and Facilities in emerging and frontline areas of S&T in academic and national institutions, supporting Mega Facilities for Basic Research, launching of new fellowships, substantial grant to potential scientists through extramural research funding, scaled up funding in the new areas such as Clean Energy and Water including Energy Efficiency, Clean Coal Technology, Smart Grids, Methanol, Desalination, Genome Engineering Technology, National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), National Mission on Inter disciplinary Cyber Physical System (ICPS) etc., promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups grant for young scientists, Funds for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST), encouraging public-private partnerships, fiscal incentives and support measures for enhancing the participation of industry in R&D etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.