

(b) and (c) The scheme envisages supporting the TEC for manpower, travel, contingency, consumables, one time capital grant for setting up the office and activities like technology awareness workshops, technology related training programmes, interactive meets with industry etc.

Dual time zone in the country

2047. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan of considering dual time zone in the country, in view of time gap between Eastern and Western States of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter regarding dual time zone in the country, in view of time gap between Eastern and Western States of India was examined by a High Level Committee (HLC) comprising Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Director, CSIR-NPL and Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura. The HLC after considering the issue recommended, not to have dual time zones for the country due to strategic reasons.

Utility of research institutions for rural areas

†2048. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research and development institutions and the scientific community funded by Government are capable to meet the requirements of rural regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the utility of research and development institutions and the scientific community for welfare of rural regions in the country?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Science and Technology has taken various steps to improve the utility of research and development institutions and the scientific community for welfare

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of rural regions in the country. The projects supported in the rural areas are being continuously monitored to improve the utility of research for welfare of rural regions in the country. Necessary initiatives are being taken by building human capacities and skills through local institutional arrangements. The Science and Technology Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)'s have strong linkages with nearby research and development/science and technology institutions to identify technology gaps and address location specific challenges in rural regions through appropriate science and technology inputs. Department of Science and Technology had initiated Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana in four clusters covering 60 villages in Uttarakhand. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and its 38 constituent laboratories spread across the country have been playing important role in providing the necessary S&T knowledge base needed for the social and economic development for the rural regions of the country. CSIR operated project activities under 'CSIR-800' programme aim at bringing in desired Science and Technology interventions for improving quality of life of rural people at base of the economic pyramid. The Geophysical studies carried out by Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) are of considerable significance in terms of societal issues like groundwater exploration and protection from pollution, in parched State of Maharashtra, which have a direct societal impact. Indian National Science Academy (INSA) launched a programme under which lecture-cum-interaction meetings were organized by the INSA Fellows/Young scientist awardees/Teacher awardees at schools/colleges in areas which were away from the urban areas to develop scientific temperament among the young students of rural/remote areas. In a similar manner, several institutions of Ministry of Science and Technology are making efforts to improve the quality of life in the rural regions of the country.

DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018

2049. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether consultations were carried out during drafting of DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018, if so, details of stakeholders consulted and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) reasons for introducing the Bill at this time when India is yet to enact a personal data protection legislation and how would differences be reconciled;

(c) reasons for ignoring the concerns made by AP Shah Committee on the issue of breach of privacy by DNA profiling; and