

health, public health and nutrition, vaccine research, bioengineering and- bio design, stem cells and regenerative medicine. DBT is also supporting translational research for application development under Accelerated Translational Grant for Commercialization (ATGC) program. ATGC enables academic researchers to take their laboratory research leads with established proof-of-concept to the next phase.

Foreign assistance through international agreements for research programmes

309. DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received foreign assistance through international agreements for carrying out research programmes/project in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign assistance received during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the details of the direct and indirect conditions imposed on recipient institutions/ bodies by the donors?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Sir, Ministry of Science and Technology is presently having Inter-Government Science & Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreement with 80 countries. As per the financial norms of agreements, respective countries provide funds to the participating research institutes/universities/organizations in their own country for research programs/projects agreed under these agreements. Ministry of Science and Technology has not received any foreign assistance through these international agreements for carrying out research programs/project in the country during last three years and the current year.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise; and

(c) Grants received by recipient institutions/bodies from donors are governed by the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010.

Bi-national Science and Technology Centres

310. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any programme to support bi-national S&T Centres which are independent entities established under inter-governmental bilateral agreements in the last three years, the details thereof, country-wise;