

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1411
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

EXPENDITURE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

1411. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a 2020 report from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the majority of research in the country relies on public funding and still the country spends a miniscule 0.7 per cent of its GDP on research, which is lower than most other developed and developing countries in the world, according to data from the World Bank;
- (b) whether Government is considering the need to increase its expenditure on scientific research and technology; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a): Yes Sir, as per the Research and Development Statistics 2019-20, majority of research in the country relies on public funding with more than 60% participation by government in national Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD). In absolute terms, GERD has been consistently increasing over the years and has increased 3 times during the last 10 years but India's GERD as a percentage of GDP has remained at around 0.7% during last few years which is relatively lower in comparison to the corresponding GERD to GDP figures for some developed and developing countries like Israel (5.4), South Korea (4.8), USA (3.5), Japan (3.3), Germany (3.1), France (2.4), China (2.4), UK (1.7), Canada (1.7), Brazil (1.2) and Russia (1.1).

(b) & (c): The government has been making consistent efforts to increase expenditure on scientific research and technology. Some of the key efforts made by Government include the successive increase in plan allocations for Scientific Departments, incentivizing investment by private sector to increase their share in GERD, improving the ease of doing business in the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) activities; introducing flexible tools for public procurement; creating avenues for collaborative STI funding through portfolio-based funding mechanisms such as Public-Private-Partnerships and other innovative hybrid funding mechanisms. The Government has allowed corporate sector to make R&D investments under the provision of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Corporates can invest in technology business incubators or contribute in research efforts carried out by institutions and national research laboratories as a part of their CSR. There are specific investment incentives offered such as Location-based tax incentives that enables 100% deductions of profits generated from establishing and doing business in northeastern states of India.
