

Programmes of Science and Technology in NE

***482. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the different programmes taken up in the North-Eastern States under Science and Technology;

(b) the amount of funds sanctioned and released, programme-wise to each State of the Region; and

(c) how far the Prime Minister's agenda can supplement the regular Science and Technology Programmes in that region?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government have initiated programmes in North-Eastern States in various fields of Science and Technology such as basic research entrepreneurship development, science popularisation, power generation, energy conservation, remote sensing, biotechnology and documentation of medicinal plants. In addition, Government provides financial support to State S and T Councils, set up in each State of the region including Sikkim, to promote Science and Technology. A Statement covering the programmes and funds sanctioned and released by Ministry of Science and Technology is laid on the Table of the House. (See below) Besides, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources also carry out S and T programmes in North-East.

(c) The Prime Minister's agenda, which, *inter alia*, includes strengthening of human resources, information technology, power, horticulture and health will fully supplement the regular programmes initiated under Science and Technology in this region.

Statement

S&T Programmes in North-East including Sikkim for the year 2000-2001

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

State/ Programme	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Tripura	Sikkim
Science	4.58 (3.92)	8.77 (6.69)	3.56 (2.88)	4.71 (4.12)	0.80 (0.64)	—	2.04 (1.67)	0.80 (0.64)
Popularisation	3.75 (3.35)	9.87 (8.17)	4.16 (3.20)	7.00 (6.35)	8.00 (8.00)	0.86 (0.86)	19.47 (17.80)	18.00 (16.90)
Entrepreneurship development	15.71 (8.72)	98.78 (97.66)	0.94 (2.87)	38.29 (28.62)	—	—	0.30 (0.30)	—
Basic Research	14.00 (14.00)	30.50 (30.50)	24.50 (24.50)	7.15 (5.19)	—	—	—	22.50 (22.34)
Support to S and T Councils	—	—	—	—	—	(20.00)	—	—
Location specific and micro- hydel power projects	(1.50)	(6.00)	4.05 (14.08)	—	—	—	4.50 (3.70)	1.50 (5.95)
Societal Programmes	21.55 (8.50)	43.53 (23.50)	24.44 (12.35)	12.05 (5.00)	—	—	65.74 (36.93)	16.16 (6.50)
S and T Infrastructure	—	157.19 (7.19)	80.00	219.29 (44.29)	—	—	—	—
Bio-Technology Programmes	—	3.58 (3.58)	3.51 (3.51)	—	—	—	—	6.94 (6.94)

* The figures without bracket indicate the sanctioned amount and the figures within brackets indicate amount released.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Mr. Chairman, through you, I thank the hon. Minister for giving me the detailed programmes of Science and Technology in the North-East, including Sikkim. But I would like to know the details of the programmes for Manipur. I also want to know the details of the programmes for science popularisation, entrepreneurship development, basic research, location-specific and micro-hydel power projects, S&T infrastructure and biotechnology.

श्री बची सिंह रावत: सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो जानकारी मांगी है वह मैंने अपने उत्तर के साथ जो विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा है उसमें दे दी है। फिर भी, माननीय सदस्य ने विशेष रूप से मणिपुर के बारे में जानकारी चाही है। मैं उन्हें अवगत कराना चाहूंगा कि मणिपुर के लिए 3.56 लाख रुपये की धनराशि विज्ञान लोकप्रियकरण के लिए रखी गई थी जिसमें से 2.88 लाख रुपये की धनराशि रिलीज की जा चुकी है। इसी तरह से जो स्थान विशिष्ट एवं माइक्रो हाइडल विद्युत परियोजनाओं के संबंध में जानकारी मांगी गई है उसमें भी 14.08 लाख रुपये की धनराशि मणिपुर के लिए निर्गत की जा चुकी है। विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी अवसंरचनात्मक सुविधाओं के लिए 80 लाख रुपये की धनराशि निश्चित की गई है। इसी तरह से जैव प्रौद्योगिकी कार्यक्रम के लिए मणिपुर के लिए 3.51 लाख रुपये की राशि स्वीकृत की गई थी और पूरी की पूरी राशि उसमें निर्गत कर दी गई है। इसके अलावा माननीय सदस्य जो भी जानकारी चाहेंगे वह उनको उपलब्ध कराई जा सकती है।

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether these programmes are being implemented properly. This was my first question. But the hon. Minister has mentioned about the details of the amount sanctioned and released. Anyhow, my second question is: even now why is the fund for these programmes not released? In some programmes—basic research, location specific and micro-hydel power projects, the amount released is more than the sanctioned amount. If so, the reasons thereof? I would like to know whether a proper monitoring is being done. If so, what are the achievements of this programme?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know why there was a difference between the sanctioned amount and the released amount. What happened was, we have sanctioned some money for this year. Sometimes, the programmes continue in the next year also. Therefore, the money which has been sanctioned this year has not been fully utilised. It will

be carried forward to the next year. In the case of Manipur, for the micro-hydel projects, the money released was Rs. 14.08 lakhs; and the money sanctioned was Rs. 4.05 lakhs. It is a continuation of the earlier programme which entitles them for the money. And the number of micro-hydel programmes in Manipur is 2×50 . Ginseng cultivation through tissue culture is also going on there. There study of fishing craft is also going on. Then, science popularisation and medicinal plants are specific programmes which we are doing. As regards the micro-hydel programmes, it happens because they continue. So, if the money is not spent now, it is carried over to the next year. But we sanction it in totality. Therefore, you find that the money utilised and the money sanctioned differ. But it is because of the continuity of the programmes.

As far as Manipur is concerned, micro-hydel plants are being monitored by our own monitoring agencies and committees; and the release is Rs. 22 lakhs and sanction is Rs. 60 lakhs.

श्री सुर्यभान पाटील वहाडणो: माननीय सभापति जी, पूर्वोत्तर भारत में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने एक वर्ष पूर्व सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों की मीटिंग की थी और उस मीटिंग में 6000 करोड़ रुपये का एक पैकेज सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए बनाया गया था। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि विकास में वहां के जितने भी राज्य हैं, उन राज्यों की ओर से कुछ योगदान मिला है कि नहीं? मैं यह सवाल इसलिए पूछ रहा हूँ क्योंकि हमारी अर्बन एंड रूरल डेवलपमेंट की पार्लियामेन्टरी कमेटी है और मैं उस कमेटी का सदस्य हूँ। हम लोग वहां दूर पर गये थे। हमने बहुत से राज्यों में दूर किया, मीटिंग की और हमारे सामने ऐसी पिक्चर आयी कि जितनी भी स्कीम्स चल रही हैं, वह खाली केन्द्र की ओर से चल रही हैं, राज्यों की ओर से जो 25 परसेंट योगदान मिलना चाहिए, वह किसी भी राज्य की तरफ से नहीं मिल रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सभी राज्य इस पैकेज में अपना योगदान देते हैं या नहीं?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: महोदय, यह प्रश्न विषय से संबंधित नहीं है लेकिन फिर भी मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी इस बारे में बहुत सतर्क हैं और जो उनका एजेंडा है, वे उसकी निरन्तर मॉनिटरिंग करते हैं, उसको रिव्यू करते हैं। अभी 20-11-2000 को उन्होंने स्टेट्स ऑफ इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ऑफ प्रोग्राम एंड स्कीम्स—यह सारा किया है, माननीय सदस्य अगर चाहें तो उसे देख सकते हैं अन्यथा पढ़ने में बहुत देर लगेगी। इसमें सब विवरण दिया हुआ है कि किस राज्य में क्या हो रहा है।

SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have given so much of emphasis on education, primarily, quality education,

everywhere. That also goes for the State of Nagaland. Now, Sir, though there is much emphasis laid on quality education, due to certain major constraints, the Governments are not able to take up the issues on a very large scale. Here, in the programmes laid down, I see that as for science popularisation as well as basic research, support to S and T councils, societal programmes, S and T infrastructure, there is no sanction reflected against Nagaland as such. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why it is so and what steps you are going to take to ensure that such programmes are implemented, specially, in the State of Nagaland.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the hon. Member has pointed out about the non-availability of funds for science popularisation, basic research and support to S & T councils societal programmes, S and T infrastructure, etc. in Nagaland. These programmes are evaluated when the State Governments put forward such programmes. I am sorry to say that there was no programme requested or requisitioned in science popularisation by Nagaland Government. In support to S and T councils, it is the amount of money which they have to spend on S and T councils, functioning of S and T councils. As and when they spend money, they will get it. If they do not spend, they will not get it. This is one of the major reasons. If there is no requirement for basic research, there is no proposal, we are not going to fund in vaccum. These are the deficiencies of the State Government in Nagaland. They have not put forward any proposal. But, nevertheless, the State Council has to do all this work. This is right. The micro-hydel plant is there, and it was sanctioned Rs. 60 lakhs. In other cases, where the project has been completed and there is no further progress on that, there is no money for it. So, they have to come forward every year with certain specific projects. I would request the hon. member to help us in gearing up the Science and Technology Council in Nagaland, and also such other activities in the field of basic research in his State. Nevertheless, the Minister and the officers of the Science and Technology Department do visit those areas and try to persuade the State Governments to come forward with projects. Now, we are also planning to have a conference of the Science and Technology Ministers of the

North-Eastern States so that the gaps and deficiencies can be filled up. But the major responsibility for coming up with projects lies with the State Governments.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the Minister has tried to justify his position of non-allocation of certain amounts to certain States, under the pretext that efforts are not being made by the State Governments to come forward, which is not at all true. I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister another thing. The sanctioned amounts are not being released. The Minister has stated that these schemes will spread over for a certain period, and the entire allocation will be made in this particular period. It is a very strange system of allocating the funds. When the scheme is being spread over for four years, do you mean to say that you will make the allocation for that year only so that most of the amount remains unspent? I think, you have done so for that reason. But that should not have been the reason. I request the hon. Minister to give a correct reply. Sir, there is a feeling among the North-Eastern States that their area is the most neglected area in the country. Sir, though this area has a vast potential in the field of science and technology and biotechnology, and this area is rich in biodiversity, the allocation made for basic research in science and technology and biotechnology for this area is very small. Rs. 3.1 lakhs have been allocated to Manipur, Rs. 3.8 lakhs have been allocated to Assam, and Rs. 6.94 lakhs have been allocated to Sikkim. Is the Government of India not giving an impression to the people of the North-Eastern States that they are totally neglected in this regard? This area has got a tremendous potential. But except the RRL at Jorhat no institute worth the name in the field of science and technology is there in the North-Eastern region. I would like to know whether the Government of India will give more impetus and lay more stress on this subject, in respect of the North-Eastern region, in the field of science and technology.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, if you notice the reply that I have given, we have mentioned it very clearly the amount sanctioned and the amount released in respect of each State. Now, you see, you sanction the amount and you release it on the basis of the progress of the scheme. You cannot release everything

beforehand. In that case, it may not be utilised for years. So, the simple principle followed is that you sanction certain amounts, you release certain amounts; the utilisation is done. Thereafter, the next instalment is given. But you will notice that even for the popularisation of science, Rs. 0.80 lakhs were sanctioned for Mizoram, but Rs. 0.643 lakhs were released. For Meghalaya, Rs. 4.7 lakhs were sanctioned, but Rs. 4.123 lakhs were released; then, Rs. 3.56 lakhs were sanctioned, but Rs. 2.83 lakhs were released. There are certain schemes where you will find that even for basic research in Manipur, Rs. 0.94 lakhs were sanctioned, but the amount released was Rs. 2.87 lakhs. In Meghalaya, Rs. 38.29 lakhs were sanctioned for basic research, but Rs. 28.62 lakhs were released. So, the release is not far behind than the sanctioned amount. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. C. Ramachandraiah, don't get excited. I will let you know everything. Now, in the field of science and technology, you have to create an infrastructure. But it is not created in a day. I do not know whether the hon. Member has visited the North-Eastern States extensively. But if he goes there, he will find that previously, there was no basic infrastructure for science and technology and even for basic research. It takes time to create the basic infrastructure. He has asked a question about biodiversity and biotechnology. That is one of the richest areas in biodiversity. That was why the Central Government sent its officers to teach them, to educate them about the importance of biodiversity and research in that field. That was why a programme had recently been undertaken there. It was a first step towards that direction. You will notice that the speed of work is very high. Rs. 3.58 lakhs were sanctioned, and Rs. 3.58 lakhs were released; Rs. 3.51 lakhs were sanctioned, and Rs. 3.51 lakhs were released; Rs. 6.94 lakhs were sanctioned, and Rs. 6.94 lakhs were released. If we want to work on biodiversity, we will have to have B.Sc. graduates, M.Sc. graduates and Ph.D. graduates; we will have to build buildings, we will have to create equipment, infrastructure and research facilities, which were totally non-existent in that areas. We are trying to build it up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Mr. Minister, for your information, I am Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Science and Technology. I have studied it well. The replies which you are giving are totally misleading; I am sorry to say.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No, no; it is totally wrong. I can say it is not misleading. We know the full conditions in the North-East. I am a student of Science, and I am in the Ministry of Science & Technology. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, what are the constraints, you are facing in releasing funds for basic infrastructure?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The S and T infrastructure has to be built up. If you build a building, then you have to complete the building and give us a utilisation certificate, and then you will get the funds. That is the simple principle. No money can be released without its proper utilisation. You can see that in S and T infrastructure we have given support to the Department of Electronics, Science and Zoology in Guwahati University; Department of Geography, Statistics and Geology, Cotton College, Assam; Department of Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences, Dibrugarh University, Assam; Department of Geology, Botany, Biochemistry and Physics, North-Eastern University, Meghalaya; Department of Earth Sciences and Biochemistry, Manipur University, Manipur, and the Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology, Guwahati. These are the places where we have the necessary facilities. If there is a building, and if there is a person ready to work in research, we do help it. We can't give it money for non-performance. So, they have to begin. We promote them, we interact with them, we encourage them to work for it, and the results are coming. It is not an issue where we can give money for non-existent institutions. Institutions have to be built up. We are building up from scratch.

श्री गांधी आजाद: घन्यवाद महोदय। महोदय, मंत्री जी द्वारा जो स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है उसके अनुसार 2000-2001 में ही सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संबंधी क्षेत्रों में डिग्री और एमएससी स्तर पर 3518 सीटें बढ़ाई गई हैं और उसी स्तर में डिप्लोमा स्तरीय संस्थाओं में 11159 सीटें बढ़ाई गई हैं। यह तो एक अच्छी बात है लेकिन साथ ही साथ अगले पैरामाफ में लिखा है कि छात्रों का प्रवेश संबंधित संस्थाओं के अधिकार क्षेत्र में है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आरक्षण का कोटा पूरा करना भी संबंधित संस्थाओं के अधिकार में है और संबंधित संस्थाओं

झर आरक्षण का कोटा पूरा किया जा रहा है या नहीं? अगर पूरा नहीं किया जा रहा है तो उस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

श्री० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सबसे पहले मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि केंद्रीय सरकार उन संस्थाओं में ही आरक्षण के कोटे को पूरे तौर पर जिम्मेदारी के साथ निभा सकती है जो केंद्रीय सरकार के सीधे अधिकार में है। बाकी संस्थाओं को, जो राज्य सरकारों के अधिकार में है या स्वामित्व पोषित संस्थायें हैं, उनको हम सलाह देते हैं, सुझाव देते हैं, पूछते रहते हैं, देखते रहते हैं और जहां कहीं से शिक्कयत आती है उसकी जानकारी लेते रहते हैं तथा उसका निराकरण करते हैं।

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Sir, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister about the seven sister States in the North-East, which are small States. They have their own problems. Unemployment is the biggest problem in the North-Eastern States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question only on the subject.

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Sir, it is connected with this question. Science and technology is a new item for that area. They get the information through television and literatures. I would like to know whether the Government of India, your Ministry, is taking steps to establish such training institutes from your own resources for giving training for six months or one year. You are depending on the State Governments. The State Governments are not in such a position. The Central Government gives a very small amount to establish such training institutes. The State Governments have to contribute some amount. Some percentage has to be contributed by the State Governments. It is not possible for the State Governments in the North-East. They have their own problems, as far as development is concerned. Are you going to provide them 100 per cent resources so that these Seven Sisters can start some institutes? They need your expertise also for establishing such training institutes. Is the Ministry thinking in that line?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I am now replying to Question No. 484. He is putting a supplementary relating to a question that has already been dealt with by the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about Question No. 482 only. We are on Question No. 482.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Anyway, Sir, in the case of most of the programmes which we start from our Ministry, we don't ask them to pay any money. We are giving them money to take our programmes. These are programmes from the Central pool that are earmarked for the North-Eastern States. This money is deducted from every Ministry and is given to them. It is a non-lapsable pool. It has nothing to do with them, whether they are subscribing to it or not. All this money goes from the Central Government and it doesn't need any component from them.

Allotment of Land to Ayyappa Temple

***483. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of pilgrims who visit the Ayyappa Temple at Sabri Mallai, Kerala, during the months of February-November and November-February each year;

(b) whether the Travancore Devasthanam Board (TDB) which is looking after the shrine, has approached Government for allotment of land for catering to the day to day basic amenities and needs of the pilgrims; and

(c) if so, when was the application received by the Ministry and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the studies carried out by the Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi in connection with the Environmental Impact Assessment at Sabarimala, approximately 5 lakh pilgrims visit the Ayyappa Temple from February to November and approximately 65 lakh pilgrims visit between November to February.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has received ten proposals from the Government of Kerala for diversion of forest land for creating different facilities in and around Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala. The details of the seven of these proposals which have