

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the first prototype of multirole Light Transport Aircraft SARAS has been fully integrated with all its systems. The aircraft was rolled out on 4th February, 2003. Aircraft level system tests are being carried out and aircraft is being readied for the first test flight.

(c) The aircraft would undergo flight testing for type certification as per the requirements of Director General, Civil Aviation (DGCA). As soon as the flight tests are completed and type certification from DGCA is received it would be available for operationalisation.

R and D Projects of CSIR

3853. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many R and D Projects could not progress fast due to lack of funds whereas the private firms investments are much larger than Government on R and D Projects;

(b) what are the major projects currently being undertaken by the CSIR; and

(c) the details regarding funds allocated to each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) CSIR is operating six Plan Schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 2430 crore. The scheme with their approved Tenth Plan Outlay are :

- (i) National Laboratories (Rs. 1800 crore)
- (ii) National S & T Human Resource Development (Rs. 45 crore)
- (iii) Intellectual Property and Technology Management (Rs. 100 crore)
- (iv) New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (Rs. 205 crore)

(v) R & D Management Support (Rs. 80 crore)

(vi) Infrastructure Renovation and Refurbishment (Rs. 200 crore).

Prediction of earthquake

3854. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people in Ahmedabad are still experiencing tremors of earthquake;

(b) whether State Government has taken any steps to know about the earthquake in advance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The aftershock activity of Bhuj earthquake of 26th January, 2001 is still continuing. On an average 6-7 aftershocks of magnitude of 3.0 and above have been recorded per month by the National Seismological network during the last 6 months.

(b) and (c) At present there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of magnitude, time and space.

Funds for Science and Technology

3855. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fund allocation made in the budget for the Ministry of Science and Technology is sufficient considering the ground realities; and

(b) the action proposed to find more money for Science and Technology for quality achievement and imbibing a scientific temper ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 1,570/- crores has been made for the Ministry of Science and Technology during the current financial year 2003-04. To keep pace with the new and emerging areas of research and development, substantial funds are required. However, the Ministry has prioritized programmes and schemes so that important areas of