

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 07.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS .**

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Smt. T. Ratna Bai

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

(a) whether Government had organized the 98th Indian Science Congress recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived thereat, so far?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES.

(PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED  
QUESTION NO.152 FOR ANSWER ON 07.03.2011 BY SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI REGARDING 98TH  
INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS.

(a) & (b):The Indian Science Congress, since 1914, has been organized by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), which is an autonomous professional body. ISCA organized the 98th Session of the Indian Science Congress from 3rd to 7th of January, 2011 at Chennai. No governmental decision is arrived at in Indian Science Congress. However, at the 98th Session of the Indian Science Congress, the focal theme was `Quality Education and Excellence in Scientific Research in Indian Universities`. It was attended by about 8000 scientists, students and policy makers. It was also attended by 6 Nobel Laureates including Professor Amartya Sen and Professor V. Ramakrishnan. The Session was well-organized into plenary sessions on well-defined themes, special lectures, policy discussions, exhibitions, etc. The topics of discussions and presentations ranged from the frontiers of modern science to science for national development to policy issues affecting the Science and Technology sector of the country, for example

(i)chemistry of future;

(ii)nano materials and nanotechnology

(iii)recent advances in asthma research;

(iv)environmental technology;

(v)biodiversity;

(vi)issues of climate change;

(vii)drug development from discovery to market;

(viii)science and challenges of energy security;

(ix)strategic electronic sector;

(x)agriculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition security;

(xi) perspectives in human health in modern society;

(xii) science policy-agenda for next five years;

(xiii) challenges of maintaining quality education;

(xiv) enhancing academia-industry interaction; etc. Some of the recommendations made in the Science Congress were: Need to create an innovation eco-system so that innovation becomes a way of life in our knowledge institutions. India should become an Innovation Hot Spot. Development of climate resilient agriculture for food security of India should receive attention. Scientific knowledge should be used for sustainable development. For clean, ecofriendly and green technologies, there is a need of integrated management strategies involving all concerned sections of the society. Governments, regulators and operators should look for innovative ways of promoting community access to empower people in rural areas to join the rest of the virtual (cyber) world. Special attention is to be given to the growth and development of university system. Universities have to be more hospitable to creativity and genius, and less captive to bureaucracy and procedure. They should be more open to talent and to the challenge of established ideas. There is a need for scientists to step beyond their discipline and at least guide the social discourse on the ethical aspects related to use of scientific knowledge. The year 2012-13 will be centenary year of the Indian Science Congress. It should be designated as the `Year of Science in India`. This "Year of Science in India" should unleash the energies of young scientists and inspire a new generation of Indians to enter the world of science, cross new horizons, explore new possibilities. The birthday of the legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, which falls on December 22, should be declared as National Mathematics Day.