

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC RESEARCH .

1229

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has not been considerable effort to develop country as a place of basic research;
- (b) if so, the reason therefor; and
- (c) what are the funds spent on developing basic research in Bihar?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

(ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Government have taken several measures to rejuvenate and promote basic research and enhance the investment on Research & Development to 2% of GDP by the end of 12th Five Year Plan from the current level of less than 1% by aggressively promoting private sector investment. This indicates the commitment of the Government in the development of science and technology including basic research. The Research and Development Programme is a targeted Programme to enhance the visibility of Indian researchers in basic science in the international scientific scene. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Research, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Basic Plant Science, Computational and Structural Biology, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. Several impressive results including publications in high impact journals, patents, human resource development, etc. have been emanated from the research investment. The support to research is enhanced through S&T mission mode programmes, establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists, Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists & engineers. To take up the basic research further to higher levels, the Government has instituted a 'Science & Engineering Research Board' (SERB) in the country. The SERB serves as a premier multi-disciplinary research agency for planning, promoting and funding of internationally competitive research in emerging areas; identify major inter-disciplinary research areas, and individuals, groups or institutions and funding them for undertaking research; evolve nationally coordinated programmes in various identified areas; assist in setting up infrastructure and environment for scientific pursuit; achieving synergy between academic institutions, research and development laboratories and industry for promoting basic research in science and engineering and engage a management system to speedily provide for funding research, including monitoring and evaluation, by adopting modern management practices.

Current rate of annual growth scientific publications in Science Citation Indexed journals is 12% during the last three years. This needs to be compared to global rate of only 4%. The number of citations for Indian papers has doubled during the last five years. The relative position of India with respect to scientific publication has improved from 15th in 2003 to 10th in 2009. With respect to PCT applications filed in USA. Indian position has improved from 25th to 16th during the last five years.

(c) A total of Rs. 264.3 lakhs has been spent in the last three years for developing basic research in the State of Bihar. In a proactive measure, Government has approved a special package for capacity building in research in Bihar.