

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1/1/2018

INTRODUCTION OF DOUBLE TIME ZONE IN THE COUNTRY

*148. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Arunachal Pradesh has requested the Central Government to look into the possibility of double time zones in the country keeping in view the difficulties in the single time zone as there is much time difference between Eastern and Western parts of the country;
- (b) whether Government is contemplating for introducing double time zone in the country and a study is being conducted under the guidance of the Department of Science and Technology in this direction;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the stand of Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF
EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.148 FOR 1/1/2018 REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF
DOUBLE TIME ZONE IN THE COUNTRY**

(a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any such request.

(b) &(c): No, Sir. There is no study being conducted under the guidance of Department of Science and Technology in this direction.

(d) The Department had set-up a High Level Committee in 2002 that had given its decision not to implement two-time zones due to several complexities involved in the process. These complexities combined with one-time costs involved in implementation of the decision in Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Communications etc. would have to be borne by these Ministries. The Committee, in order to meet the objectives of gainfully utilizing the morning hours and to provide better recreational avenues during evening hours, had recommended advancing work timings suitably in the Eastern and North-Eastern States.

Subsequently a report titled “Options for adjusting Indian Standard Time for Saving Energy” was submitted by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) of Ministry of Power. This was discussed in a meeting chaired by the then Secretary, DST held on 19 June 2012. The discussions remained inconclusive due to lack of detailed studies on perception and social impact on North Eastern region due to shifting of Indian Standard Time and its cost implications for Railways and other utility providers. In this meeting DST’s stand was reiterated that the earlier High Level Committee had not recommended two time zones in view of strategic and cost implications.

An advisory has been issued by the Department of Science and Technology to Northeastern States to consider advancing work timings suitably.
