

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.205
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

Government's support for research on climatic changes

205. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has initiated any steps to focus on research, pertaining to climatic changes and its effects on mankind;
- (b) schemes being implemented for promoting climate change research in the country, the details thereof;
- (c) funds sanctioned, released, and utilized in this regard during the last five years, yearwise details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has any plans to support and encourage startups engaged in research on climatic changes; and
- (e) if so, the details of such programs, funds sanctioned, funds utilized and the entities supported during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) The Government stands committed to addressing the global collective action problem of climate change through multilateralism and resolute domestic actions, including, improving the understanding of the subject through various research endeavours. The Government is fully aware that research and knowledge generation are critical aspects of the fight against climate change.

Climate change is a cross-cutting issue spanning various Ministries/Departments and institutions under them. Research on climate change is mainly sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Sectoral aspects of climate change are also studied by different Ministries/Departments concerning sectors like agriculture, water resources, human health, power, renewable energy, transport, urban, etc. Further, a large number of universities and government research institutions such as

the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Central and State Universities and their departments also carry out climate change related research. Thus, any estimate of the funds provided for climate change research for a vast developing country like India can only be indicative and not exhaustive. The MoEFCC under Climate Change Action Plan, a central sector scheme, has sanctioned projects of Rs.51.59 crore during last three years. An amount of Rs.17.45 crore has been released to 23 research organizations implementing these projects.

(d) and (e) Startups and the entire innovation ecosystem are the engines of growth for any country. Recognizing this aspect, the Government launched Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016 with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing India's startup culture that would further drive our economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities. In the private sector there are a number of startups that are being formed to promote and to utilize opportunities for green development and green technology in a wide variety of sectors. The startup sector across the country is actively supported by the Central and State Governments through number of Government schemes and programme. They attract private sector capital. Sustained Government efforts in this direction have resulted in increasing the number of recognized startups from 471 in 2016 to 72,993 as on 30th June 2022.

As such startups function across multiple sectors which have direct or indirect benefits for sustainability, a specific quantification of support provided may not provide a complete picture. Within Government of India, the startups are supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which is the nodal Ministry for the purpose. The MoEFCC does not have any specific scheme for promoting the startups engaged in research on climate change.
