

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2532

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2532. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to implement a policy of Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) on lines of Corporate Social Responsibility to link science with society and to encourage Science and Technology based institutions and scientists, if so, details thereof;
- (b) the details of the responsibility to be borne by scientists, knowledge-workers and institutions of country under the said policy and direct and indirect benefits expected to society and country from same; and
- (c) whether a proposal is also included to give weightage to individual SSR activities in evaluation of annual performance of scientists/ knowledge workers/institutions under said policy and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The government has launched guidelines on Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR), on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), on National Technology Day on 11.05.2022. The SSR guidelines seek to harness the latent potential of the scientific community on voluntary basis, strengthening science and society linkages and thereby making S&T ecosystem responsive to societal needs.

(b) The responsibilities of scientists, knowledge-workers and institutions of the country include carrying out SSR activities like delivering lectures in schools and colleges, writing popular science articles in media, sharing of infrastructure and knowledge resources, S&T based empowerment of women and weaker sections of the society by awareness building, conducting training programs, skill development through training and workshops, demonstration of solutions and technologies, etc. These guidelines have the potential to bring scientific and innovative solutions to societal problems, especially for the marginalized sections of society, and imparting thrust to the new initiatives of the Government such as Transformation of Aspirational Districts, Make in India, Swachh Bharat and Digital India in achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development towards making India a self-reliant nation (AtmaNirbhar Bharat).

(c) Yes, Sir. The guidelines include provisions to give due weightage to individual SSR activities in performance evaluation of scientists / knowledge workers. The guidelines also include provision of incentivising individual and institutional SSR activities.
