

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 694**  
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**Low allocation of Research and Innovation Expenditure**

694 SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:

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

- (a) Whether the government acknowledges the reported low allocation of Research and Innovation (R&I) expenditure related to the environment, with the Department of Science and Technology, indicating that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change accounted for only 0.8% of the major R&I expenditure of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Ministry has engaged with the scientific community, including environmental scientists, to ensure that the National Research Fund's institutional bodies are led by professionals from various scientific disciplines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) Environmental research provides knowledge for the development of sound evidence-based policies and strategies towards conservation of natural resources of the country. The Ministry has been supporting Research in Environment since 1985 in multidisciplinary areas by providing grants to various research institutions and universities for implementing research projects. Research in Environment (RE) division of the Ministry provides funds to these projects based on the budget allocated to the Environmental Research and Development Programme (ERDP) scheme. The overall expenditure of the Ministry on Research and Innovation depends upon the number of suitable research projects received in the relevant thematic areas.

Details of the funds allocated and utilized during the last three years are as follows:

( ₹ in Crore)		
Year	Allocated Amount	Utilized Amount
2021-22	9.50	6.33
2022-23	4.50	2.91
2023-24	37.00	23.50 upto 31.01.2024

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