

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3809
ANSWERED ON 03/04/2025

ACCESSIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE

3809 # SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has initiated several programmes to make scientific infrastructure accessible to all; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Yes Sir, Government has initiated several programmes to make scientific infrastructure accessible to all.

- i. Department of Science & Technology (DST) through its schemes namely Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE), Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF) and Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI) has established various scientific research facilities in diverse STEM areas in academic Institutions and universities to promote research, development and innovation. The facilities created under these programmes are widely utilised and are accessible to scientific community, researchers, MSMEs, startup and industries.
- ii. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been supporting the development of research infrastructure at universities and research institutions across the country with the primary objective to augment life science and biotechnology research activities through DBT- Boost to University Interdisciplinary Life Science Departments for Education and Research Programme (DBT BUILDER) scheme. Additionally, Scientific Infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia University Research Joint Collaboration (DBT-SAHAJ) portal facilitates access to facilities created by DBT, through a single window.
- iii. In order to make the scientific Infrastructure more accessible, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) has launched 'the Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)' portal, for sharing of publicly funded scientific equipment for optimal usage and accessibility. Around 34,000 users have already been registered in I-STEM portal and more than 26,000 instruments are uploaded by 3300 institutes PAN-India.
- iv. Several world class test facilities of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have now been opened for industries and necessary Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) have been formulated. Various agencies are allowed to utilize Indian Space Research Organisation/ Department of Space facilities after due assessment and clearance by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), Department of Space.
