

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*290**  
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

**STATUTORY STATUS TO CSIR**

\*290 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to enact a comprehensive legislation to provide statutory framework for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to enhance accountability, governance and global competitiveness in an innovation-driven economy;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any independent evaluation of CSIR's research output, commercial impact and return on public funds, including how research priorities of individual CSIR laboratories are determined;
- (c) whether such legislation would mandate performance and outcome audits, disclose revenues generated through technology transfer; and
- (d) whether international best practices, including Korea's Science and Technology Act, are being studied to bridge India's competitiveness gap with leading R&D nations?

**ANSWER**

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

(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. \*290 FOR 19.03.2026 REGARDING “STATUTORY STATUS TO CSIR”.**

- (a) The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), constituted in 1942 by a resolution of the then Central Legislative assembly, is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of 1860. The Prime Minister of India is the ex-officio President of CSIR, and the Union Minister of Science and Technology is the ex-officio Vice President. CSIR is known for its cutting-edge R&D knowledgebase in diverse S&T areas and is a contemporary R&D organization. Having a Pan-India presence, CSIR has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 1 innovation Complex, and 3 units. CSIR’s R&D expertise and experience are embodied in about 3400 active scientists supported by about 3800 scientific and technical personnel. Currently, there is no plan to enact a comprehensive legislation to provide a statutory framework for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- (b) CSIR, through regular reviews at the laboratory level as well as centrally, has been assessing the performance of its constituents. Expansion of R&D areas, mid-course corrections, as well as
- (c) foreclosure of some activities in view of its contemporary and future relevance, are important elements of the appraisals. “Outcome Review of CSIR Schemes” in 2016 was carried out by the Saraswat Committee. CSIR has also considered the recommendations of the Vijayraghavan Committee for fostering stronger and meaningful linkages with the industry and other stakeholders. In addition, appraisals of CSIR activities are also done by CSIR’s Performance Appraisal Board (PAB), CSIR Advisory Board, CSIR Governing Body, and also by CSIR Society under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India. The revenue generated by the laboratories through technology transfer is also considered during such Outcome reviews/ Appraisal exercises. CSIR constitutes Research Councils for each of its constituent laboratories/ Institutes for a period of three years. Research Council acts as a high-level think tank for the laboratory/institute and advises on the formulation of R&D programmes and future directions of activities of the laboratory, keeping in view the CSIR mandate, national priorities and opportunity areas; suggest networking with other CSIR National Laboratories on programmes of mutual interest i.e. thematic activities; review R&D activities and research programmes and advise on future directions, advise on fostering linkages between the laboratory, industry and potential clients, among others.

To meet national S&T aspirations, CSIR has taken a judicious approach to strengthen existing provisions to facilitate better performance of the Council and its constituents. Towards this, the merger of laboratories, namely CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) and National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS) into one entity named CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) was effected in 2021. CSIR has also upgraded one of its unit, namely CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI), to the national laboratory status in 2024, in due consideration of the emerging importance of advanced digital technologies such as data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence to address national needs of societal and strategic importance.

- (d) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), one of India's largest research organisations, plays a central role in advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in India. Leveraging its extensive network of laboratories, CSIR has been providing significant technological interventions in many areas and thus boosting national competitiveness to foster economic growth. CSIR, being in the role of technology provider for the industry, has also operationalized desired mechanisms to boost entrepreneurship, which could lead to enhanced creation and commercialization of radical and disruptive innovations, underpinning the development of new economic sectors. CSIR has also actively engaged in international collaborations to enhance its research and innovation capabilities, adopting global best practices to strengthen scientific and technological advancements.

Some of the global partners of CSIR include the National Research Council of Science & Technology (NST), Republic of Korea (RoK); National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belarus; CNRS, France; Medicines for Malaria Venture, Switzerland; National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), USA; Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG), Germany; etc. Through these collaborations, CSIR has gained insights into partner countries' expertise in high-tech R&D and innovation ecosystems, integrating best practices in technology commercialization and industry-academia linkages. These engagements not only strengthen CSIR's research output but also enable CSIR to refine its methodologies and accelerate innovation in alignment with global standards and enhance its ability to address national challenges with globally benchmarked solutions.

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