

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3168
ANSWERED ON 19/03/2026

INCREASING ALLOCATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

3168 SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

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

- (a) the reasons why the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) remains stagnant at around 0.65 per cent of the GDP, severely lagging behind global peers;
- (b) the reasons Government has consistently failed to incentivize private sector participation in R&D funding; and
- (c) the specific roadmap to achieve the long-stated target of 2 per cent of GDP allocation for scientific research?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has more than doubled from Rs. 60,196.75 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 127,380.96 crore in 2020-21, However, as GDP has grown at a much higher rate than GERD, the GERD as a percentage of GDP remained at 0.6%. Another factor contributing to this is the relatively low investment by India's private sector in GERD, accounting for only around 36%, while in most of the developed economics, private sector contributions in GERD is more than 50%. The Government has undertaken several strategic initiatives to enhance both private sector and public sector investment in national GERD through enhanced funding, institutional reforms and focused mission-mode initiatives. The key initiatives include:

- Successive increase in allocations for scientific departments, financial assistance to R&D institutions to carry out basic and applied research in the frontier and emerging areas of science and technology.

- Launch of ₹1.0 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme over 6 years to incentivise private sector investment in R&D. Under this scheme 50 percent for project cost is borne by Government funding and matching 50 percent contributions from companies or private investors. The scheme aims to de-risk private R&D and support projects at higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRL 4 and above) through long-term, low-interest financing, including unsecured loans and, in select cases, equity-based support, from private industry and from deep-tech startups. Moreover, the scheme seeks to catalyze and mobilize financial resources from the private sector to enhance investment in research, development, and innovation activities.
- Establishment of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) with a budgetary provision of Rs. 14,000 crore from Central Government and the additional funding to be explored and sourced from non-governmental sources like industry, philanthropists, etc. mobilizing additional funding from non-governmental sources.
- Launch of National Missions such as National Quantum Missions (budget outlay: Rs. 6,003.65 crore), National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (budget outlay Rs. 3,660 crore), India Semiconductor Mission (budget outlay Rs. 76,000 crore), National Supercomputing Mission, etc.
- Allowing corporate sector to make R&D investments under the provision of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Promotion of Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) and creation of Technology Hubs under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems and National Quantum Mission to foster collaborative technology development.
- Introduction of enabling policy frameworks such as the National Geospatial Policy 2022 and BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy 2024 which is aimed at fostering high performance Bio-manufacturing with the provisions for increased participation from private sector.
