

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3004
ANSWERED ON 13/08/2026

DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN CHHATTISGARH

3004 # SMT. LAXMI VERMA:

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

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided to laboratories in Chhattisgarh by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology (CCOST);
- (b) the progress made in scientific research relating to agriculture, healthcare (as sickle cell anaemia) and utilisation of local resources in rural areas and tribal districts;
- (c) the details of outcomes achieved in this regard; and
- (d) the details of digital and technological expansion in the remote areas of the State, including internet connectivity, modernization of science centres such as the Regional Science Centre, Raipur and promotion of technical education?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has supported research infrastructure schemes such as the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST), and Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) to strengthen advanced research facilities in academic and R&D institutions and laboratories. The details of the financial assistance during the last five years i.e. from financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26, are furnished in Annexure-I.

(b) to (c): Government of India is dedicated to facilitate promotion of scientific research in various domains including agriculture, healthcare (as sickle cell anaemia) and utilisation of local resources in rural areas and tribal districts.

DST through its Tribal Sub Plan component of Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) is supporting a consortia-based project titled “CRISPR-mediated Genetic Correction of Sickle Cell Disease towards Clinical Trials in a Small Patient Cohort.” This synergistic initiative aligns together some leading institutions including Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Health Sciences and Ayush University of Chhattisgarh. This collaborative framework is designed to advance research and development towards successful clinical trials of genetic correction for sickle cell anaemia in Indian patients, including the state of Chhattisgarh.

The SEED division has also supported a project on establishment of SC-ST Cell to CCOST for mapping of livelihood system for planning of development strategies, identification of technological gaps including mapping of technological needs, formulation of research/demonstration/ projects as well as specific programmes leading to socio-economic development of the SC/ST community by utilizing local resources and skills of target communities.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had implemented a mission mode project on Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) during 2017 to 2025 particularly in tribal-dominated regions of the states

including Chhattisgarh. This project developed a comprehensive screening model, which was expanded to several other parts of the states and country, including the Durg district of Chhattisgarh. In addition, samples collected for newborn screening at various places in different districts, including Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, in different settings, were also screened for SCA using the WB-PCR method and a high concordance with HPLC was obtained.

The Department of Biotechnology is promoting Research and Development activities, including agriculture, healthcare (such as sickle cell anaemia), and the utilization of local resources in rural areas and tribal districts, through its Pan-India Bio-RIDE (Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development) scheme, including in the state of Chhattisgarh.

(d) DST has also established Technology Enabling Centers (TEC) at Guru Ghasidas Central University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh in 2023 to leverage the available technologies to effectively address the identified industrial challenges and foster technological innovation and progress. The center prioritize industry and institute consultations to identify relevant spokes and gather insights on the specific problem statements or needs of the local industry.

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, established a Regional Science Centre at Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh under the Science Cities scheme of the Government of India which was inaugurated in July 2012. The said Regional Science Centre, Raipur was handed over to the State Government of Chhattisgarh by NCSM. To modernize and upgrade the Regional Science Centre, Raipur, NCSM has also initiated the Exhibit fabrication work for the new thematic gallery on “AI-An Altered Identity!”. Further, NCSM is engaged for development of science parks at 5 schools in Chhattisgarh through Central Research & Training Laboratory (a constituent unit of NCSM), Kolkata and have signed an MOU with CCOST for development of Mobile Science Laboratory buses.

To attain the vision of Digital India, the BharatNet project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats in the country to make Gram Panchayats/ Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs) service-ready for providing high-speed internet services under the BharatNet project. The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) scheme has commissioned mobile towers to extend coverage to villages.

The Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, promotes technical education nationwide and locally in Chhattisgarh through the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). For promotion of technical education the Government has institutionalised centres in the state of Chhattisgarh such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) also runs technology and digital skill programs through the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).

Annexure-I**Details of financial assistance to institutes in Chhattisgarh under FIST and PURSE schemes during the last five years i.e. from financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26**

S.No	Name and Address of the Institute	Sanctioned Amount (in Rs Lakhs)
1	Guru Ghasidas Central University, Koni, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh	1271.86
2	Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	246.00
3	Rungta College of Engineering and Technology, Chhattisgarh	103.25
4	Government V.Y.T. PG. Autonomous College Durg, Chhattisgarh	89.00
5	National Institute of Technology Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	118.00
6	Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	977.02
	Total	2805.13
