

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4211
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/3/2018**

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) ON R&D

4211. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India spent only 0.5% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research and development in 2015;
- (b) whether owing to the strength of India's economy and growing anti-immigrant atmosphere in some Western countries, India has an opportunity to attract back more scientists as there are more than 100,000 people with PhDs, who were born in India but now live and work outside and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to control brain-drain and to increase R&D infrastructure in various sectors?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री और पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री

(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)

- (a) As per the latest available statistics, India spent 0.69% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D during the year 2014-15.
- (b) Government has taken noticeable efforts to attract overseas scientists of Indian origin and bring them back to work in India. The Ramanujan Fellowship Scheme and the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) provide attractive avenues and opportunities to Indian researchers of high calibre, who are residing in foreign, to work in Indian Institutes/Universities of their respective interest and domain. In addition to assured fellowship and research grant for a period of five years for the scientists, provisions to seek for other competitive research grant of Government made these schemes more attractive and popular. VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty Scheme is a recent initiative of DST to bring overseas scientists and academicians including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to India to work as adjunct / visiting faculty for a specific period of time in public funded academic and research institutions. The growing strength of India's economy, the propitious policy frameworks adopted by the Government and sophisticated research facilities available in our academic and research institutions attract more Indian scientists to return and work in India.
- (c) Government has taken several steps to encourage scientific community and motivate them to continue their research work in the country. This includes launching of new programmes / schemes and interfacing with other Ministries / Departments and Industries to leverage their resources and expertise in undertaking research of national relevance and thereby enhancing the share of scientific research in GDP. Schemes like Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructures in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST) to build research infrastructure for enhancing research capabilities, Core Research Grant, Start-Up Grant for Young Scientists in the form of Early Career Research Award and National Postdoctoral Fellowship, Research fellowships such as JC Bose and Swarnajayanti are targeted at practicing scientists to contain brain-drain and strengthen R&D infrastructure in various sectors.