GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.330
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/12/2018

TARA INITIATIVE

330.   **SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:**

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

(a)   the number of voluntary organisations that have been identified in the last 4 years under the Core Support Programme of the Technology Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA) initiative;

(b)   the details of some of the novel and adaptive technologies that have been developed and deployed under this initiative; and

(c)   the details of the mechanism that ensures a 'bottom-up' programme planning with full community involvement in this initiative?

<center>**ANSWER**</center>

<center>**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</center>

<center>(डा. हर्ष वर्धन)</center>

(a)   TARA scheme aims to develop & deliver innovative technologies through adaptive research, primarily for application in rural and remote areas. In this endeavor, S&T NGOs (Core Support Groups - CSGs) supported by DST identify location-specific problems and convert these into research challenges for developing and demonstrating scalable technologies related to agriculture, energy, livelihoods security and drudgery reduction etc. in rural settings by building human capacities and skills though local institutional arrangements. Presently, 25 CSGs were supported during last four years, and four new voluntary organizations with S&T capabilities have been identified from North-Eastern region and Central India under the Core Support Programme of the Technology Advancement for Rural Areas (TARA).

(b)   Several novel and/or adaptive technologies have been developed & deployed by CSGs under TARA initiative such as development of community-owned & community-operated affordable safe water solution powered by solar energy in Bundelkhand region by Development Alternatives, Delhi; Micro Solar Dome (Surya Jyoti) technology to provide light in dark & dingy interiors of rural and slum dwellers by NB Institute of Rural Technology, Tripura; Solar Space & Water Heating System for high altitude mountain areas by Himalayan Research Group, Shimla; Improved Watermill with varied design of turbines by Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization, Dehrdaun; Energy Efficient Cooking Devices by Technology Informatics Design Endeavour, Bangalore; Threshing cum de-husking machine by Madhya Pradesh Vigyan Sabha, Bhopal; Food Processing Technology using Solar Dehydration Technology to produce value added fruit bars/rolls by Society for Energy Environment and Development, Hyderabad; Rice De-husking machine & Domestic Egg Incubator by Vigyan Ashram, Pune; Livelihood related technologies suitable for Arid/Desert Regions by BAIF, Barmer, among others.

(c)   Core support program of TARA initiative ensures people centric participatory approaches in technology development and deployment from conceptualization, development to implementation stage for rural application by promoting close and productive interaction between different stakeholders including community by leveraging of technologies. Process mechanisms involves need assessment exercise in identified technology gap areas and evolve scalable, appropriate and affordable technologies to address local challenges involving nearby S&T institutions/R&D labs, academic institutions as well. It also ensures backward and forward linkages for effective deployment and adoption of technologies through field level demonstration involving community at the grass roots level.

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