

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4390  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/7/2019**

**VIGYAN KENDRA/TARAMANDAL**

†4390. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up Vigyan Kendra and Planetariums/ Taramandals at the district level to encourage children for scientific activities and to make them understand the scientific methods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the alternate plan/arrangements made by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री  
डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन**

- (a) Yes, Sir. National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture (MoC) is engaged in establishment of Science Centres throughout the country. Science Centres are set up throughout the country based on proposals received from different State Govts./UTs and with the approval of the Government as per the norms of the Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) scheme of Ministry of Culture (MoC) through National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). Portable Taramandal (inflatable dome Planetarium) are also provided to each such science centres. Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, has no such initiative. Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan organizes Astronomical Telescope Making Workshops for students in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, an aided institution (AI) of Department of Science & Technology. It is also aimed to set up Vigyan Evam Praudyogiki Kendras (VPK) and Jila Tara Mandal(JTM) to encourage children and other levels of society for propagation of scientific activities.
- (b) Ministry of Culture (MoC) through National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has set up 23 Science Cities / Museums /Centres and 20 Regional / Sub-Regional Science Centres. Addition of 16 new Science Museums / Centres by NCSM, Ministry of Culture under the Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS) is an ongoing activity of that Ministry.
- (c) Does not arise.

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