

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1026
ANSWERED ON 26/07/2023**

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION BILL

**1026. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether a Special Purpose Vehicle will be set up to identify technology gaps and fund Research and Development (R&D);**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country?**

ANSWER

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

**विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)**

(a) & (b): The Union Cabinet has approved introduction of the National Research Foundation Bill, 2023 (Bill) in the Parliament with an aim to establish National Research Foundation (NRF) as a Statutory body under Ministry of Science and Technology. NRF serves as an overarching apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country. It will seed, grow and promote

research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. The Bill also seeks repeal of the Science and Engineering Research Board Act, 2008 (Act No. 9 of 2009) and dissolution of the Science and Engineering Research Board constituted under the said Act.

(c) & (d): NRF will set up frameworks to identify scientific and practical solutions for societal, developmental, financial and techno-economic challenges including technology gaps and fund R&D through various mechanisms including creation of Special Purpose Funds to cater any specific project or research.

(e): The government has taken several steps to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country. This includes successive increase in allocations for scientific departments, creation of centres of excellence, instituting research fellowships and project schemes, encouraging public-private partnerships, fiscal incentives and support measures for enhancing the participation of industry in R&D, etc. The extramural funding schemes of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Fellowship schemes of DST, DBT and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have been designed to encourage scientists to do quality research and thereby strengthening the research ecosystem. Promotion of technology development programs in the area of energy efficiency, water technology, nano-technology, cyber-physical, biotechnology, industrial technologies, etc. by the Ministry of Science and Technology has been contributing significantly to strengthen the research ecosystem in the country.
