

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3405
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/08/2023
AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

3405. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with the foreign countries relating to Science & Technology in the past three years;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the details of expected developments in the arena of Science & Technology out of such agreements?**

ANSWER

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

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

- (a) It may be noted that the Ministry of Science & Technology has presently Inter-Government Science & Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreement with 80 countries. During the last three years, the Government has been able to leverage strategically important international bilateral collaborations in Science, Technology and Innovation with about 45 countries in the mutually identified areas. During the recent years the cooperation has strengthened significantly with multilateral and regional partners such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, European Union (EU), Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HSFPO), European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), Mission Innovation and bilateral cooperation with Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, South Korea**

UK and USA. Cooperation with African countries has also been strengthened through India Africa S&T Initiative. The soft prowess of S&T has been leveraged to engage with several countries under India's Act East policy and with some neighbouring countries.

(b) and (c) All these agreements are aimed to encourage and facilitate developing cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation with these countries in the mutually identified areas. The stake-holders include researchers from scientific organizations, academia, R&D laboratories and companies. International partnerships and alliances help in value addition to national programs. Such collaborations create opportunities for exchange of information, generation of new knowledge, sharing of expertise, cost and optimal utilization of resources, and provides access to advanced facilities and sophisticated instruments which are not available domestically. This in turn enhance the quality and output of scientific research and also enhance job employability.
