

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2956
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2023**

Allocation of Funds for Science and Technology

2956. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD:

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

- (a) the rationale behind India's allocation of funds for Science and Technology in view of significant disparity between India's allocation and other countries like Korea, United States and China which spend a much higher-percentage of their GDP;**
- (b) whether it aligns with India's aspirations in the field of science and technology and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the manner in which the Government plans to address the concerns raised by the experts regarding the adequacy of the allocation with the slight increase in funding for the Ministry of Science and Technology especially considering the impact of inflation;**
- (d) the mechanism through which the Government plans to ensure that funding keeps pace with inflation to maintain the momentum in scientific-research; and**
- (e) the manner in which the Government aims to undertake its specific goals and projects with the help of the allocated funds to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and its effective utilisation?**

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

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

(a) & (b) The government allocates funds in alignment with the national aspirations and priorities to strengthen the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem in the country. Some of the key efforts include

successive increases in allocations for scientific departments, creation of centres of excellence in emerging areas, instituting research fellowships and R&D schemes, etc. In the recent years, the government has launched several new mission mode programmes such as National Super-computing Mission (NSM), National Mission on Integrated Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), National Quantum Mission (NQM), National Deep Ocean Mission, National Hydrogen Mission, etc. with the aim to provide technological leadership to the nation in emerging areas. Further, the government has initiated the roll out for establishment of an Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) with the aim to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of Science & Technology at a total budget of Rs. 50,000 crores for five years (2023-28), out of which a major share of around 70%, is estimated to come from non-government sources.

As per the latest available R&D statistics, the national expenditure on research and development (R&D) measured in terms of Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) has been continuously increasing over the years and has been more than doubled in last 10 years. However, India's GERD to GDP ratio remained at 0.6% to 0.7% which is relatively lower than other countries like Korea, US, China, etc. and is mainly attributed to inadequate investment by India's private sector into GERD.

(c) to (e) The government carries out a detailed exercise to finalize the allocation of budgets for Ministry of Science and Technology in alignment with the requirements, priorities and also to maintain the momentum in scientific research. For effective utilization of the budget allocations, the Government is implementing the Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) mechanism to set financial year-wise targets under each scheme/initiative against pre-defined indicators and accordingly monitor the progress/outcomes in a systematic and objective manner. The OOMF being implemented through NITI Aayog consists of a set of indicators that are used to measure the outputs and outcomes of government programs and initiatives. It also provides feedback on the effectiveness of its policies and programmes and helps in identifying areas for improvement.

The allocation of budgets for the Ministry of Science and Technology has been consistently increasing over the years. The budgetary allocation i.e. Budget Estimate (BE) for Ministry of Science and Technology during last five years has increased by 25% from Rs.13056.24 crore in 2019-20 to Rs.16361.42 crore in 2023-24.
