

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/03/2020**

NATIONAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME

2541. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on major national science programmes to be rolled out this year and the subsequent years and also called upon scientists in the country to take up an additional task of stewardship of the planet, which is facing multiple challenges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and progress made in this regard;
- (c) whether most of the national science and technology missions announced by the Government in the recent months are fast taking shape and, if so, the details thereof and progress made therein so far; and
- (d) whether four city science-clusters are being formed in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, the National Capital Region and Pune, which will serve as hubs that connect “bi-directionally” with State universities and less resourced locations around, if so, the details thereof and progress made along with funds sanctioned and spent so far?

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) & (b): Yes Sir, Department of Science & Technology has initiated several new schemes for this year and subsequent years. These include some women centric schemes such as Vigyan Jyoti, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) and an online Science and Technology resource portal for women. The scheme “Vigyan Jyoti” aims to provide a ladder to sustain girl’s career in science and technology domain with interventions from school to PhD and post-doctoral level in under represented areas.

The objective of the programme “GATI” is to develop a Charter for Gender Equality in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) for India and a gender framework. The Portal is expected to provide E-resources related to all women specific government schemes, scholarships, fellowships, career counselling and details of subject area experts from various disciplines of science and technology.

A unique initiative called “Scientific Social responsibility” has been taken up to reach out to stakeholders of science and society at large with all the tools, knowledge, manpower and infrastructure of S&T in the universities, R&D labs, IITs etc.

Science &Engineering Research Board has initiated a scheme called “SERB-SUPRA” to promote transformative and disruptive research proposals based on innovative and unproven hypotheses, possessing a high degree of uncertainty, yet having confidence to produce a lasting impact across discipline boundaries.

A major programme for generating High Resolution National Topographic Data Base (HRNTDB) using advanced technology like Drone/Lidar/Optical sensors technology has been initiated to produce digital data at 10 cm accuracy.

Another mega programme called “Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)” has been launched to provide shared, professionally managed services and strong Science and Technology infrastructure / facilities, with efficiency, accessibility and transparency of highest order under one roof to service the demands of all stakeholders.

(c) Two Missions have been announced by the Government recently. These are the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (MN-ICPS) and National Mission on Quantum Technology and Applications (NM-QTA). Both these missions are fast taking shape. Under MN-ICPS, action for establishing Technology Innovation Hubs has already been initiated.

d) A High Level Committee has been set-up under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman NITI Aayog to examine and suggest modalities towards establishing City Science and Technology Clusters in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune. High-level Committee on City Science and Technology Clusters is exploring setting up of city Knowledge and Innovation Clusters, to begin with, in the four cities of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT).
