

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.122

TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.09.2020

SET-UP OF SUB-REGIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE AT RAJAMUNDRY

122. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state

- (a) whether it is true that the Ministry has decided to set up Sub-Regional Science Centre at Rajahmundry with an estimated cost of Rs. 15.00 crores;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives and other details of the project; and
- (c) the status of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) A Sub-Regional Science Centre (Category-II) is being set up at Rajahmundry at an estimated cost of Rs.15.20 crores (Capital cost Rs.11.70 crores and Corpus fund Rs.3.50 crores) on a plot of land measuring 5.42 acres at Mahila Praganan site at Dowlaiswaram Village under Bommuru Gram Panchayat, Rajahmundry allotted by State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

The total capital cost of Rs.11.70 crores is being shared by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in 50:50 ratio and the corpus fund of Rs.3.50 crores is being shared by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in 20:80 ratio as per Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science.

Aims and Objectives of the Science Centre(Category-II) project at Rajahmundry are as follows:

- To portray the growth of science and technology and their application in industry and human welfare, with a view to develop scientific attitude and

temper and to create, inculcate and sustain a general awareness amongst the people;

- To create awareness & enhance public understanding, appreciation & engagement of ;
- To popularise science and technology for the benefit of students and for the common man of the region by organising exhibitions, seminars, popular lectures, science camps and various other programmes;
- To supplement science education given in schools and colleges and to organise various out-of-school educational activities to foster a spirit of scientific inquiry and creativity among the students;
- To design, develop and fabricate science museum exhibits, demonstration equipment and scientific teaching aids for science education and popularisation of science;
- To organise training programmes for science teachers/students/young entrepreneurs/ technicians/physically challenged/housewives and others on specific subjects of science, technology and industry.

Project details:-

The building will have a covered area of 2000 Sq. mtrs. (approx.) of which 1000 sq. mtrs. will be used as exhibit display halls, 300 sq. mtrs. for temporary exhibition area, 700 sq. mtrs. as visitors' activities area, exhibit development laboratory, office, auditorium, taramandal (inflatable dome planetarium), children activity area, stores, conference room/library and adult activity area, visitors' amenities etc.

Generally, the following galleries and facilities are installed in a Science Centre.

Permanent Galleries:-

Thematic Gallery

The main gallery of the centre will be on a theme of scientific importance as well as of social relevance such as Environment, Forest, Mountain, Natural resources, Indigenous technology highlighting the local resources and their apt utilization. The exhibits will be mostly interactive and supplemented with visuals, illustrations and artifacts.

Fun Science

A Group of interactive exhibits on physical science, mathematics, geography, geology, electronics, life science, chemistry, computer science and information technology will form this gallery. The exhibits will be providing curriculum support to the students as well as make science learning a fun to the visitors.

Outdoor Science Park:-

Science brought outside the boundary of four walls. Interactive exhibits placed aesthetically in the lush greenery of the park. Children play with them while they learn the fundamental of science. Water body, aviary, herbal and medicinal plant corner, picnic areas for visitors etc. are added attractions.

Taramandal:

The inflatable dome planetarium can provide an excellent way of interactive learning of astronomy. The programme will be held regularly at the centre.

Exhibit Development Laboratory

This will be used for regular maintenance of exhibits and development of exhibits and kits in future.

Other facilities:-

Temporary exhibition hall, science library, conference room, office, store etc.

Educational & Training Programmes:-

The centre will hold regular educational programmes like science demonstration lecture, popular lecture, creative ability programme, sky observation through telescope, computer awareness programmes, science quiz, science seminars and science fairs, teacher's training programme, community awareness programme, anti-superstition programme, science film show etc. for students, teachers and common people. A training hall and an auditorium will be used for these purposes. There will be a science curriculum based activity corner/innovation corner where students will learn the basic principles of science through experimentation in science and fabrication of science models, which can be used as teaching aids. This will supplement the formal science education imparted in the schools. The innovation corner will help in nurturing innovation, creativity in the young minds. There will also be a children's activity corner.

Innovation Hub:-

This will be used for innovative experiments (tod-fod-jod), thematic projects and science activity camps for students.

(c) Construction of the building of Sub Regional Science Centre, Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh is presently going on. After completion of Sub-structure work upto plinth level, construction work in superstructure above the plinth and 1st floor casting of the building are in progress. The project is likely to be completed during Financial Year 2021-2022.
