2835. SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the concerning stagnation and decline in Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) as a percentage of GDP; and

(b) if so, the steps undertaken by the Government to promote private sector investment in Research and Development and enhance Gross Expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir, the Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a percentage of GDP is hovering around 0.7 for last 5 years. However, in absolute terms, GERD has been consistently increasing over the years and has increased by 3 times during the last 10 years.

(b) The government has been making concerted efforts to enhance the GERD as a percentage of GDP. Several steps have been taken to attract the private sector to invest in R&D such as incentivizing the private sector's R&D participation by improving the ease of doing business in the STI activities; introducing flexible tools for public procurement; creating avenues for collaborative STI funding through portfolio-based funding mechanisms such as Public-Private-Partnerships and other innovative hybrid funding mechanisms. The Government has allowed corporate sector to make R&D investments under the provision of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Corporates can invest in technology business incubators or contribute in research efforts carried out by institutions and national research laboratories as a part of their CSR.

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