GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2835 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2022

OBSTACLE IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

2835. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government is cognizant that one of the main grievance of Indian science community is the presence of undue beauracratic control over Research and Development ecosystem of India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has studied the structure of administration and governance of science in those countries that are advance in sciences and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has taken any measure to address this issue and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

(a) No Sir, all the scientific departments are functioning with an integrated approach in synchronization with each other and with other departments of the Government of India.

(b) Yes Sir, the Government has studied the scientific administration and governance structure in leading innovation-backed countries in the world. Most of the S&T innovation led economies in the world have been putting efforts towards improving their 'ease of doing research' in line with the concept of 'ease of doing business'. There are a few global rankings such as Global Innovation Index, Global Competitiveness Index, etc which are reporting on this aspect. These comparative analyses bring out key attributes associated with S&T governance and administration. India has made considerable progress in terms of its ranking in most of the global indices in the recent years.

(c) Yes Sir, the Government has taken some major initiatives to bring transformative changes in the processing of the research proposals by employing digital technologies that involve, online receipt and online processing of the proposals for review and approvals and digital transfer of the research grants which has improved the transparency in implementation and also reduced the average time of processing from earlier nine months to approximately four and half months. The Government has also introduced an effective grievance redressal mechanism to address the concerns of the citizens including that of scientific community. Further, as part of the formulation of the new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, several recommendations have been included in the draft towards the 'Ease of doing research' in the country.