

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2703
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024**

PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH EQUIPMENT

2703. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:

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

- (a) the number of research equipment procurement proposals submitted to the Government during the last three years and the number out of these approved and denied respectively;
- (b) the criteria or guidelines being followed by the Government while evaluating proposals for the purchase of research equipment;
- (c) the details regarding the breakdown of the types of research equipment for which purchases have been restricted or denied during the last three years;
- (d) the total budget allocation for research equipment procurement by the Government during each of the last three fiscal years and the manner in which this is being/has been compared to previous years;
- (e) whether the Government ensures that restrictions or denials of research equipment procurement do not hinder scientific research and innovation in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to support the development and manufacturing of research equipment within the country to reduce dependence on imports?

ANSWER

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

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
(डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह)

(a) The Ministry of Science and Technology fosters the development of research infrastructure including research equipment procurement across the country through various schemes, including the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST), Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE), Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facilities (SAIF), Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI) of Department of Science and Technology(DST) and Research Resource Service Facility and Platform (RRSFP) scheme of Department of Biotechnology(DBT). The number of research equipment procurement proposals submitted and approved by the Government during the last three years is as follows:

- DST has recommended 330 proposals out of 2,188 received.

- **DBT has recommended 18 proposals out of 303 received.**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an autonomous body under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) receives government grants to support its R&D activities, including the procurement of research equipment. It does not support to other autonomous bodies excepts its own laboratories.

(b) These proposals are evaluated based on competitive grants, with eligibility and alignment to the scheme's mandate as key criteria.

(c) No cases of breakdown of the research equipment have been reported so far for which purchases have been restricted or denied during the last three years.

(d) The internal total budget allocation for these schemes under the Ministry during the last three financial years Department wise is as follows:

Departments	Budget allocated (Rs. in Crore)
DST	766.6
CSIR/DSIR	1155.2
DBT	75

There has been an increase in budget allocation for procurement of research equipment compared to previous years.

(e) There are neither any restrictions of research equipment procurement nor Government hinders scientific research and innovation in the country. Rather, Government is committed to foster innovation and support the development of research equipment within the country through various schemes.

(f) Government has taken various steps to promote innovation and translational research in the Country. The National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) program of DST, supports innovation, startups, and incubation through various components including financial support for prototype development. DST has established five Technical Research Centres in its five autonomous bodies for translational research and many of the products developed through these centres have been transferred to industries.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) actively develops the state-of-the-art incubation facilities and supports entrepreneurs, startups, and MSMEs. CSIR has established Incubation Centers and Common Research and Technology Development Hubs (CRTDHs) to advance industrial R&D and support MSMEs and individual innovators.

The Department of Biotechnology, through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), encourages startups and innovators to undertake translational research and develop affordable technologies. products & technologies for public at large. BIRAC schemes encourage setting up of biotech enterprises. Support is extended for mentoring, funding, validation/pilot testing of startup innovations and investor connect for the startups in biotechnology domain.
