

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2724
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024**

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2724. SMT. SAJDA AHMED:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the progress of the National Research Foundation and identified areas;**
- (b) the steps being taken to increase the budget allocation for R&D to meet global standards;**
- (c) whether Government proposes for a mandatory policy for industries to allocate a portion of their profits towards research and development;**
- (d) the policy adopted by the Government to provide more autonomy to scientific institutions similar to organizations like ISRO; and**
- (e) the initiatives being undertaken to enhance scientific temper and research-oriented thinking in higher education institutions across the country?**

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) Yes, Sir.**
- (b) The Government has taken several steps to increase the budget allocation in the field of Science and Technology including R&D such as successive increase in plan allocations for scientific departments; creation of Centres of Excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas of S&T in academic and national institutions; participating in mega facilities; substantial grant to potential scientists through extramural research funding; scaled up funding in the new areas such as Clean Energy including Energy Efficiency, Clean Coal Technology, Smart Grids, Methanol, Desalination, Genome Engineering Technology, Climate Change Research; introduction of National Missions viz. National Quantum Mission, National Mission on interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems; promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up grant; Funds for Improvement of S&T**

Infrastructure; encouraging public private partnerships etc. Establishment of Anusandhan National Research Foundation, as a Statutory body, is a remarkable step taken by the Government to increase the budget allocation for R&D in partnering with industry and boost research in the country to meet global standards.

(c) Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 mandates every company having net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more, or turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more, or net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more during the immediately preceding financial year, to spend at least two per cent of the average net profits of the company made over immediately preceding three financial years towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for undertaking various activities including contribution to incubators or R&D projects in the field of science, technology, engineering and medicine, funded by the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or any agency of the Central Government or State Government. No other proposal for a mandatory policy for industries to allocate a portion of their profits towards R&D is under consideration.

(d) The Autonomous Institutions (AIs) under administrative control of the Ministry of Science and Technology have been provided autonomy to initiate R&D activities through their respective Governing Councils. Relaxations have been made in the General Financial Rules 2017 specifically for scientific Ministries for procurement procedures. Financial powers have been delegated to AIs for doing research and procurement of equipment.

(e) The Ministry of Science and Technology has several programmes to enhance scientific temper and research oriented thinking in higher education institution across the country. Every year the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is conducting lectures, seminars and open houses through State S&T Councils across the country in higher educational institutions to showcase thriving scientific ecosystem and inspire students to pursue R&D and innovation. Post Graduate programme of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) provides research support grant to higher education institutions for dissertation/thesis writing. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had launched a programme named “JIGYASA” in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to open up the national scientific facilities to school children, enabling CSIR scientific knowledgebase and facility to be utilized by school children to instil ‘Scientific Thinking’ in the young minds. The Ministry has been providing doctoral and postdoctoral research fellowships to students to pursue research in science and technology in the country.
