GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4444

TO BE ANSWERED ON: 20.08.2025

SEMICONDUCTOR LABORATORY IN MOHALI

4444. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has discontinued the association of the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali from the Department of Space (DoS) and ISRO following the Union Cabinet decision dated 5 December 2021 and if so, the rationale behind this reorganisation;
- (b) whether any consultations were held with the Punjab Government, SCL scientists or other stakeholders prior to this decision and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to retain any ISRO-linked projects at SCL and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to address service continuity, pension entitlements and redeployment issues faced by scientists transferred from ISRO to SCL; and
- (e) whether a roadmap has been prepared for infrastructure upgradation, talent retention and future technology development at SCL and if not, the reasons for the delay?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (e): Semiconductor manufacturing is a foundational and strategic industry, vital for national development. Semiconductor chips are critical for manufacturing of many products ranging from mobile phones to refrigerators and cars to missiles. With growth in electronics manufacturing, it is imperative for India to develop the semiconductor industry, which provides components to electronics manufacturing. Semiconductor ecosystem: includes designing, fabrication and packaging of chips. All of these require capital investment for a sustained period and highly skilled manpower. Chip manufacturing processes need more than three hundred different types of specialized gases and chemicals.

India's semiconductor strategy is comprehensive. It aims to develop a complete ecosystem, ranging from design, fabrication, assembly, testing, packing, and manufacturing. India is focusing on developing a deep talent pipeline.

India's strategy is inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, Make for the World. It builds on the design capabilities in our country.

Recognising the importance of semiconductor industry, Government approved Semicon India programme with a total outlay of ₹76,000 crore, following the Inter-Ministerial Consultation, including Department of Space and SCL, Mohali which includes modernization and upgradation of Semi-conductor Laboratory (SCL). Accordingly, SCL has been brought under the administrative control of MeitY, vide notification dated 07.02.2022.

Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) Mohali undertakes activities related to the design, development, fabrication, assembly and packaging, testing, and quality assurance of Silicon CMOS and MEMS devices for various applications including strategic sectors. SCL manufactures a variety of ICs, including linear voltage regulators, voltage references and switches, data converters, amplifiers, drivers and application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs). These ICs have applications in various sectors including space.

SCL fulfils the requirements of Department of Space and ISRO, thereby catering to the strategic requirement of country.

With the change in administrative control, while meeting the strategic requirements, SCL Mohali is also being used by Indian start-ups and academia to fabricate chips. 56 designs by 34 institutions have been taped out under Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme at SCL Mohali. Out of this, end to end fabrication has been completed for 28 chips designed by 25 academic institutions.

Augmentation of SCL is part of the overall goal of giving SCL a larger role in the development of semiconductor ecosystem in the country. SCL employees are integral part of this modernization process.
