

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:235

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003

SETTING UP OF A DIGITAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCE

CHADA SURESH REDDY

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the efforts are being made to seek UNESCO cooperation in setting up of a Digital Science and Technology Library and Information Resource in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the site of the proposed institute; and
- (c) the time by which the institute is likely to be started?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI. BACHI SINGH RAWAT )

(a) Yes Sir. Efforts have been made by India to seek UNESCO cooperation for Digital Science & Technology Library and Information Resource initiative .

(b) With a view to strengthening open and equitable access to scientific and technological knowledge, information and civilizational knowledge for world class higher science education & advanced research in Asian region , by way of `Digital Science and Technology Library` , Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore submitted a proposal seeking UNESCO's cooperation and role in :

- Procuring published scientific & technical books , research monographs, civilizational knowledge for the ` Digital Science and Technology Library` as gifts ; and

- Mobilizing voluntary/ discounted permission of publishers and purchase of subsidized copyrights by UNESCO to digitize upto 10,000 selected scientific books and research monographs / journals to be put on the `Digital Science and Technology Library` .

(c) UNESCO has expressed difficulty in supporting this initiative due to

(i) the unresolved issues and concerns about copyrights and its implications for the publishing community and

(ii) constraints in availability of adequate infrastructure at user end in Asian region for effective use of Digital Science and Technology Library.