

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4342
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
KNOWLEDGE SUMMIT
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether a Knowledge Summit attended by large Scientific Community from the U.S., China and India was held in New Delhi on March 27, 2006;
- (b) if so, whether the Summit highlights the lack of research in bio-technology; Nano-technology and other Industrial and Scientific fields in India;
- (c) the suggestions made to provide necessary support and momentum to fundamental research in various branches of Science, agriculture, horticulture and manufacturing; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to give a boost to research in various fields of science & technology and to harness it?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A large number of global nanotechnology / biotechnology scientific and industry leaders from the US, China and India attended the Knowledge Summit organized by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, New Delhi. The focus of the Summit was primarily on industry with emphasis on technological advances at the global level in these emerging fields. The Summit noted the rapid progress achieved in the field of biotechnology in India and highlighted the need of involving more industrial players. The Summit received extraordinary attention on the immense power of nanotechnology and India's plan towards a Nano S&T Mission. Some of the other notable suggestions of the Summit are: Make India the global R& D hub by providing incentive to basic research over a long term period, creation of a non-lapsable knowledge acquisition fund that encourages young Indians to go back to sciences, create and foster a culture of innovation amongst the academia, industry-research institutions and government for ensuring synergies.

(d) The Government in order to give a boost to research has taken significant measures by introducing a set of new initiatives. These include: Establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swarnajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists, Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists & engineers, Women Scientists Scheme: instituted to provide opportunities to women scientists, Swarnajayanti Fellowships: for outstanding young scientists, Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development etc.