

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1802
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
BASIC SCIENCE
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the experts have expressed their grave concern over the grim situation of science in India as reported in the Times of India dated July 21, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details and facts thereof;
- (c) whether the performance in basic sciences has come down both in terms of percentage of contribution to world science and percentage of high quality research paper;
- (d) if so, the details of India's contribution to world science as compared to other countries;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the situation and find reasons behind this situation;
- (f) if so, the finding thereof;and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to provide structure for basic science?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.FATMI)

(a) to (g): According to the information contained in the report titled `India Science Report` brought out by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) with the help of National Council for Applied Economic Research

(NCAER), the annual enrolment at graduate plus level in science subjects has gone up from 28.8% in 1995-96 to 34.6% in 2004. However, the number of Ph.Ds in India in relation to M.Sc/B.Tech, is low as compared to the position in countries like USA, UK, Germany and Japan.

A Task Force was constituted by the Government in March, 2005 for strengthening basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has inter alia, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the CSIR laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post- graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been directed to implement the recommendations contained in the Report.