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Title: Need to provide adequate funds for the Scientific Research Projects in the country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Madam Speaker, I got ecstatic when the news flashed that Shri Venkataraman Radhakrishnan had been awarded as a noble laureate in the discipline of Chemistry. Being an Indian, I was proud that he was an Indian-born. But at the same time, I was a little regretted when I found that the noble laureate had not been India produced. The fact is that even in the pre-Independence era our country was able to produce outstanding scientists and researchers in the world. But now we are talking about knowledge society, inclusive society, etc. and prominent educational institutions have been thriving up in every nook and corner of our country. In spite of all, we are not being able to produce the researchers and scientists of the international standard. I think, we need to have an introspection into it. The neighbouring country, China, is miles ahead from us in the Research and Science sector. Even many Third World countries are also marching ahead. Madam, you will be astonished to note that in the first quarter of this 20th Century, India has produced more scientists and researchers than the second half of the 20th Century. It is found that our country has been allotting less than one per cent of our GDP to Research and Science sector.

Madam, now-a-days, Research has become a capital intensive sector. In the emerging internationally competitive research sector, we need to infuse more fund and furthermore, those talented and meritorious students of our country prefer to go to other professions namely IT, IPS, IAS, etc. In the Research and Science sector, emoluments and perks are much less than those sectors. Secondly, since the childhood, a sense should be inculcated in them that Science and Research sector is an excellent sector which need to be persuaded and respected.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of this Government that if India wants to emerge as a super power on as a global power in the coming days we need to infuse more and more funds into this sector so that we can produce researchers and scientists of international standard.