

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 16, 1980/Asadha 25,  
1902 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 551-Prof. Madhu Dandavate. He will not be coming. At least, he was courteous enough to inform me earlier. I appreciate that. I got the letter from him.

SHRI JYOTIMOY BOSU: You may direct the other Member to ask the question. There is a rule under which the Member can authorise someone else to ask the question and there is another rule under which you are authorised to call the other Member.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not invoke that rule at present. Next Question-Question No. 552, Shri Nanje Gowda.

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### Extension of Science and Technology to State and Distt. Level

\*552. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:  
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to extend Science and Technology to state and district levels;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to encourage young scientists

who have new suggestions for development of Science and Technology?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(b) The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is already providing financial support for time-bound research projects or activities related to science and technology at the State and District levels. The Department has assisted in the setting up of 17 State Research Development & Design Committees, whose main functions are to receive and scrutinise problems posed by small industries and refer them to appropriate S & T institutions. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has also set up Polytechnology Transfer Centres in various State capitals to offer technological assistance from R & D institutions and other appropriate sources to local industries; these centres have been set up with financial participation of the State Governments and association of Industry. In addition, CSIR has Regional Research Laboratories and field stations and branches of its national laboratories etc. at various, locations in the country. It has also been decided to encourage the development of State Councils on Science and Technology which would act as focal points for planning, coordinating, encouraging and spreading scientific activities in their respective States. They could also provide funds for scientific activities and ensure appropriate guidance and monitoring. It is proposed to

encourage full utilization of existing infrastructure and capabilities through planning and coordination.

(c) For the Plan period 1980—85, a new scheme is being formulated specifically for promotion of scientific interest in the youth. In addition to activities that the Department of Science and Technology will itself organize, it is proposed to involve professional organizations such as Indian Science Congress Association, the various Academies of science, the professional associations of engineers etc. in this effort. Further details are being worked out.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Sir, it is reported that Madam Prime Minister in an interview to the Science Magazine called 'Nature' said that she would like the National Committee on Science and Technology to operate at the State and, possibly, at the district levels. Except in a few major centres there are not many technological and scientific institutions at the district level. Even if such institutions exist, the subjects that are taught there and the training that is imparted tends to be very diffused.

I would like to know whether Government is having any specific programme not only to improve the existing institutions but also to extend Science and Technology, particularly, to the district levels. Are there any specific schemes to adopt these institutions to the local needs in terms of local produce or in terms of setting up agro-based institutions at the District and Rural levels?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: About 17 State Research Designing and Development Committees were set up in November, 1973 for assisting small scale entrepreneurs and efforts are being made to augment the working of these Committees as well as Science and Technology at the State levels.

So, at the district levels, about ten projects are at present in operation and more will be taken up in the near future.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Sir, it is stated that Government have formulated some schemes for promotion of scientific interests among the youth. I would like to know what are the details of the schemes proposed. They have said that, in the Plan period-1980 to 1985, they are formulating these schemes. I want to know whether there was any such schemes at all during the last 2½ years or three years. If so, whether encouragement was given or not—I want a specific answer to this question.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the S. T. Department propose to organise these for the youth through institutions, like the Science Congress Association and other paralled associations for the scientists during the annual session of the ISCA to involve younger generation in meaningful discussions.

Secondly it is expected that budget provisions for these activities will be mostly for holding symposia, seminars, and lectures involving young people. As regards the other details, I can say that there are seminars organised by the INSA, ISCA and other professional organisations. There are publications of reports, travel grants for travel within the country to individual young scientists, for projects arising out of the workshops and seminars. These are the activities at present. Other details are being worked out and we will be trying to integrate science with the needs of the rural people.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister for having made these statements. Sir, in 1971 when Madam was the Prime Minister science and technology was organised in a planned manner. It is most unfortunate that during the last two and a half years of Janata

rule they have completely dismantled the entire fortification of science, technology and research.

Sir, the Prime Minister has stated that we have to revamp science and technology planning and I quote a few words from her statement dated 21st June:

"Mr. Gandhi thinks science and technology planning should be extended beyond the Central Government."

In view of the statement made by the hon'ble Prime Minister I would like to know whether the conclusions, deliberations and results of science and technology would reach the common man in order to transform the society including the youth of this country? Further, what are the programmes that have been envisaged by the Government now?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Sir, I appreciate the hon'ble Member's interests in science and technology and specially in trying to spread it where it is most needed, that is, in our rural areas and amongst our bright young people.

As my colleague said a little earlier, a number of research and development projects have been supported in various States and districts. Most of them are in the smaller towns because of the work necessary before. The result can be applied in the villages. Some projects, for instance, are: The programme for the generation and application of rural technology—five projects in Wardha district. This is a centre of science for the villages. Similarly, there is the application of rural development in general with special reference to Chandrapur which is near Pune in Maharashtra. There are many other such coordinated bio-gas technology and utilisations projects which are in Bombay, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Roorkee, etc. Low cost solar cells for application in the rural drinking water supply, small-scale

irrigation and so on. Solar grain driers for drying and storing agricultural produce. Environmental planning and rural technology in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. We have rural energy consumption in northern India and studies on model and village eco-systems. Similarly, financial support is being given to bright and young scientists. Research schemes are operated which encourage them to undertake research work in front-line multi-disciplinary areas. Also, recently, we gave support to a seminar on the encouragement of Indian science and technology which was organised by a society of young scientists under the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. We hope that this workshop will give specific recommendations for use in the rural areas. The Indian Science Congress Association is also giving encouragement to younger people, allowing them to read their papers and so on.

In the new plan the Department has provided a sum of Rs. 1 crore to initiate some immediate steps to utilise the infra-structure which is being created for development. We have intensification and high priority area schemes for the development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in science and technological areas. We have schemes for the promotion of scientific interest in young people, assistance for the development of State Councils, and to promote technical cooperation amongst the development countries. These are only some of the items. But I should like to assure the hon. Member that Government is very much alive to the importance to this subject.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: In view of the importance of rural development of this country, I am happy that the Government is taking a lot of interest in developing alternative renewable sources of energy. May I know whether the Government is also thinking of giving subsidies for these industries which are taking up solar energy, gober-gas

plants, wind energy, tidal energy and so on and so forth?

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:** Through R & D, we give subsidies and encouragement by way of tax exemptions, to those industries which come forward in respect of such research in the field of renewable sources of energy. Incentives will be provided, firstly, by exemption in tax; and secondly by matching grants provided through NRDC.

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** One of the most effective ways of taking science to the mass level is through the science movement for children and that involves the setting up of children's science museums in various districts. Certain non-official agencies like the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund have been doing some work in this field but it has not yet become an accepted and important part of the Government of India either the Department of Science and Technology or the Ministry of Education. Would the Prime Minister very kindly let the House know whether this scheme for National Children's Museums at district level is going to be taken up and implemented during the sixth plan period?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** I cannot give a positive answer. But it is a good suggestion. We have to see that the right persons are found for them. Sometimes the idea is a good one but in its implementation it does not serve the right purpose. And even with regard to Science Museums, as Dr. Karan Singh knows, in some places good work is being done; in other places it is very routine. So, a lot of public consciousness has to be aroused so that the local people have an interest. The demand should come from them rather than our foisting something from the top. But it is a good idea. Through such Museums and also through the tours which school children and college students take, a great deal can be done to increase their interest.

**SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV:** In spite of these very good objectives that science and technology should reach the rural areas, really speaking, much attention has not been paid by our scientists regarding day to day activities in the villages like grinding flour or agriculturists using tools and so on. In many of such fields not much attention has been paid. Therefore science and technology has not reached the grassroot level where with the minimum of expenses, it can be very useful and very effective also. Will the Prime Minister, really speaking, take a personal interest in the matter regarding setting of some particular cell at the Central level so that they may take up this to the grass-root level, and particularly, to see that science and technology is given a new orientation to help our rural folk in taking full advantage of science and technology?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** I have indeed been taking interest in this, not now but for many years. In fact, in some of my speeches in the Science Congress, the hon. Member will find that I have laid special stress that while we want higher technology and the most sophisticated sciences, simultaneously there must be a great deal of work, at the other levels and two of the things which I had asked them to take up and were taken up in some parts of our country, were, for instance, with regard to the wheels of the bullock carts. If you put tyres on the wheels of the bullock cart, it immediately saves your road, saves the bullocks and gives greater speed and helps the farmer. Similarly, where the chakki is there where hand grinding is done, if you put a ball bearing, it means less drudgery for the village women.

There are many other such items which I have personally been pointing out. I was told, for instance, that in a district like Deoria, there is now no bullock cart which does not

have tyre wheels. So people are taking it up. Hon. Members know that our farmers, who are considered to be so conservative—this was the reputation the world had given them—have taken to new methods very quickly. Wherever new ideas come, they have adopted them.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Department of Science and Technology are coordinating the research activities of C.S.I.R. and I.C.A.R.?

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:** The coordination is there in different activities between C.S.I.R. and I.C.A.R. whenever it is required. But it is not always there because these are two different organisations. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is conducting research work on wider aspects with respect to agriculture and C.S.I.R. is particularly conducting research and other activities regarding industrial development, that is, in the field of applied research. But whenever coordination is required, it is always done.

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** I entirely agree with the hon. Member that coordination and constant keeping in touch with these ideas are most important. In answer to my hon'ble friend's earlier question, may I say that various meetings are organised such as गात्र व कारीगर और महिला which was held in Sevagram in Wardha. We have also other movements to bring scientists in closer touch with artisans and their needs.

जैमलमेर में वैनिक श्रमियों के हाथ  
अस्त्रों की चोरी

\* 553 श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : क्या रक्षा  
मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जैमलमेर जिले के  
खोला-वारी क्षेत्र में मेना द्वारा समय-समय पर  
खोला-वारी का अभ्यास किया जाता है ;

(ख) क्या इन अभ्यासों में आधुनिक अस्त्र-  
पन्थों का प्रयोग भी किया जाता है जिसके कारण  
इस क्षेत्र में अव्यभिचारी पदार्थों के रूप में लोहा,

जस्त, सीसा और अन्य पदार्थ दूर-दूर तक बिखर  
जाते हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि निकटवर्ती  
क्षेत्रों के लोग अबैध रूप से इस क्षेत्र में घुस जाते  
हैं और इन मूल्यवान धातुओं की चोरी करते हैं  
तथा उन्हें बेच देते हैं,

(घ) क्या रक्षा विभाग ने ऐसे मामलों में  
कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही की है और यदि हा, तो  
किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गई है तथा अब  
कितने व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध किस प्रकार की कार्य-  
वाही की जा रही है, और

(ङ) क्या रक्षा विभाग का विचार यह  
सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि इन क्षेत्रों में अबैध  
रूप से कोई भी प्रवेश न कर सके, कोई विशेष  
व्यवस्था करने का है और यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी  
ब्यौरा क्या है ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
(SHRI C. P. N. SINHA):** (a) and  
(b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Cases of unauthorised entry  
into the range and theft of metal  
scrap are reported to the local police  
who prosecute the offenders for  
trespass and theft. 76 such persons  
have been apprehended so far. Out  
of these, three persons have already  
been convicted by Courts and the  
others are under trial.

(e) It is very difficult to physically  
prevent unauthorised entry of the  
local villagers into the area, as it is  
not possible to fence such a large  
range. However, patrolling by army  
personnel and the local police is  
organised regularly to deter attempts  
of unauthorised entry into the range  
area. Warning notices forbidding  
people to enter the range are also  
put up

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : जो केपेज हुए हैं, उनमें  
76 पकड़े गये हैं और इन केमेज में कन्विक्शन  
हुआ है, इसको देखते हुए कितना भी परिणाम  
विस्तृत हो, बड़ा हो उममें खर्चा भी अधिक आवे,  
पर बिना कैमिग के व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकती।  
यदि फन्सिंग बहुत ही मुश्किल हो तो जो रेंगलर  
गश्त होती है क्या उनकी सहाय्य बढ़ाकर अनेक  
स्थानों पर गश्त कराकर पूर्ण व्यवस्था करा  
सकेंगे ?