

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3556
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/12/2010

SPECIAL SCHEME TO POPULARIZE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3556. SHRI TARUN VIJAY:

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

- (a) whether there is any special scheme to popularize science and technology amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) in what manner science and technology is being popularized in North Eastern States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES; AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. Popularization of science and technology among all sections of the society and states is a major focus area of National Science and Technology Communication Council (NCSTC), Vigyan Prasar and many laboratories of Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR). Some of these activities address the general community. However, dedicated programmes have been organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST). These programmes are delivered through community based organizations with a focus on application of science and technology for adding value to locally available natural resources. Training workshops and science awareness activities are conducted for social groups belonging to these communities. Popularization of science among the SC/ST population is coupled also to skill development, technology information, capacity enhancement and knowledge about value addition to locally available natural resources. On an average, 20 programmes per year are being organised to address exclusively the science and technology initiatives for SC/ST population.

(c) North Eastern Region has gained special attention from the Ministry of Science and Technology for special interventions. DST has developed a special package for promoting science education in colleges in the North Eastern Region. Support has been extended to 58 colleges for the upgradation of laboratory facilities for science education. The ministry has been organising and supporting several flagship programmes in the NE region such as National Children Science Congress; Regional Orientation Programme on "Understanding Planet Earth"; National Science Day programmes; Motivational programmes for talented students; Training courses on science writing/ journalism, etc. During 2009-10, more than 40 projects on science popularization for NE region have been supported. CSIR has been conducting a CSIR-Programme on Youth for Leadership in Science (CPYLS) for the students of NE states through North-East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented programmes for supporting education in life sciences and biotechnology areas. Special programmes for adding values to natural resources from the region have been conducted by DBT.
