

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2549**  
ANSWERED ON 10/08/2021

**INSUFFICIENT DOMESTIC INVESTMENT IN R&D**

2549. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been insufficient domestic investment in R&D and there has been a persistent shortage of well-trained scientists and engineers in the country to keep up with the growth in the economy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the report by UNESCO called “Science Report” which states that research intensity in the country is stagnant and patenting by domestic corporations, research institutes, universities and individuals remains low; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for the low investment?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b): No Sir, the investment in R&D in terms of Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has been consistently increasing over the years and during the last 10 years, the GERD of India in gross terms has increased by 3 times. Similarly, the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) researchers per million of population in India follows an increasing trend. As per the latest R&D statistics, the number of FTE Researchers per million people has increased to 255 in 2017 from 218 in 2015 and 110 in 2000.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir, the Government is aware that the research intensity, in terms of Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) to GDP has been figured around 0.7% since last few years. The main reason for GERD to GDP not increasing to desired level is due to the fact that there is an inadequate private sector investment into GERD. Unlike other advanced countries where more than 70% contribution of GERD comes from the private sector, in India the private sector contribution to GERD is less than 40%. The government is making concerted efforts to increase private sector investment into GERD through various incentivization initiatives.

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