

CSIR doing well in life sciences, says Minister

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New Delhi, Dec 17 (PTI) Ten out of 12 new drugs developed in India come from Council of Scientific and Industries Research (CSIR) laboratories, Science and Technology Minister Prithviraj Chavan told Rajya Sabha today. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour, he said while contribution of CSIR in engineering research had lagged behind, it had done tremendously well in life sciences. "CSIR in pursuance of its mandate for scientific and industrial research has established close linkages with the university system for basic and applied research," he said. "Many academic institutions have their campuses or facilities co-located alongside CSIR laboratories." In order to encourage research in universities, CSIR funds research projects in universities. "CSIR will continue to reinforce and build further linkages with universities and educational institutions," he added. Chauhan said the US Patent Office has been granted access to the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library that stores information on ancient Indian medicine, so that none can patent products like "haldi (turmeric)" and make commercial gain. Though there has been a slowdown in spending on research and development due to global economic slowdown, Government continues to aim at doubling R&D expenditure to 2 per cent of GDP, he said adding 75 per cent of the funding comes from the government while private sector contributed just one-fourth of the total.