

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The progress of science and the competitive position of a nation's science base depend upon the availability and access of advanced research infrastructure. Scientific equipments forms an important component of research infrastructure and enables scientists to carry out development of research. In a wider perspective, it is critical to recognize that scientific equipments and research infrastructure are intimately associated with policy frameworks that facilitate and enable procurement, maintenance and disposal of scientific equipments, and management systems for providing information on accessibility and sharing of trained manpower.

The National Science and Technology Management Information System, a division of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has initiated a nation-wide study for development of database of equipment funded under R&D projects and other S&T research infrastructure schemes of the Central Government during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The task of surveying and data collection exercise was carried out and with the cooperation of over 793 project investigators and heads of institutions. The study has resulted in the creation of a web-based database presenting details of 431 extramural research projects and other S&T infrastructure schemes such as Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) having 890 items of specialized; multi-disciplinary and multi-user equipments each costing Rs 10 lakh and above from 179 academic institutions and R&D organisations located across the country.

The study has also analyzed the data received from project investigators and prepared a report covering the funding pattern of equipment, city- and state-wise distribution, and gender representation, among other. A summary of which is given below for quick reference. Recommendations and suggestions that emerged from the study are given at the end of the report.

Findings and recommendations are based on responses to the questionnaire received from project investigators, universities and higher educational institutions representing 431 projects sanctioned during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. It is, therefore, presumed that the information furnished by nodal officers was authentic and accurate in all respects.