Over ineffective 85 national-level scientific and technological tasks have been suspended

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Many research topics are invested in but lack practical value, while many applied topics lack funding. In particular, there are 86 national-level scientific and technological tasks that have been suspended, without acceptance, causing significant waste [1].

This is one of the issues pointed out by the National Assembly Supervision Delegation during a working session on August 12th with the Ministry of Science and Technology on "the implementation of legal policies on practicing thrift, combating waste during the period of 2016-2021".

During the period of 2016-2021, the total budget for research and development tasks at the ministry level, grassroots level, and other tasks was over 3,700 billion VND, but only 519 billion VND was allocated for scientific research tasks (accounting for over 14%). The irony is that many scientific research topics have not fully utilized their effectiveness. No national-level research and development tasks apply a lump-sum payment method to the final product.

Mr. NGUYEN NGOC SON, Standing Member of the National Assembly's Committee for Science, Technology, and Environment: "Many topics now receive funding but are later suspended or canceled, and even completed topics are not put into practice, while many research topics with practical applications do not receive funding. I believe this is a shortcoming, from a state management perspective, the Ministry needs to deeply evaluate this issue."

Ms. NGUYEN THI THU HA, Deputy Head of the Quang Ninh National Assembly Delegation: "Recently, we went to Dong Nai and found that with such a large area of land and investment resources, whether there is actual effectiveness or not? And whether such high-tech enterprises truly meet high-tech criteria or not, we see waste in such topics."

Other opinions also suggest clarifying the risks of loss and waste from the processing, retrieval of assets formed during research, and investment in science and technology.

Mr. DOAN ANH THO, Deputy Auditor General: "The value of unprocessed assets is significant, the aggregate data until the end of 2020 is 1,032 billion VND, which also entails significant risks."

Mr. HUYNH THANH DAT, Minister of Science and Technology: "To overcome this issue, from the beginning of the term, we regularly work locally, inspecting and supervising research and development tasks in these localities."

National Assembly Vice Chairman TRAN QUANG PHUONG: "Regarding the evaluation of public investment projects and assets from 76 scientific and technological research tasks, how are these assets evaluated, managed, and what happens to projects and tasks after completion? For example, evaluating the efficiency of laboratories, completed scientific research topics, and implementation transfers must be assessed."

The Vice Chairman of the National Assembly also suggested that the Ministry of Science and Technology evaluate the causes and responsibilities for 7 projects with slow progress, 4 projects suspended with total costs of nearly 75 billion VND; the management of the National Technology

Innovation Fund and the National Research and Development Fund, where the National Technology Innovation Fund receives over 317 billion VND from the state budget but its implementation still has many shortcomings, lacking autonomy, requiring the annual use of a portion of the equity capital to maintain regular activities.

Ensuring efficient and transparent funds management fosters innovation and sustainable development [2].

References

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