

Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

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To
The News Editor,
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For Publication

Dear Sir/Madam,

Today, the General Secretary of Breakthrough Science Society, Prof. Soumitro Banerjee, has issued this following statement regarding the unscientific claim by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi about the discovery of life in plants.

“The scientific community of India expresses grave concern at the false unscientific claims made by the honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi at a meeting of the Ministry of Environment and Forests yesterday. Addressing the State Ministers of Environment and Forests, he claimed that the existence of life in the plants was discovered in ancient India long before the discovery by Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, and that it was discussed in the Sreemad Bhagvat Gita and Mahabharata. However, he didn't care to place any evidence in favour of his claim. He also claimed that there is *Param Atma* or absolute soul in plants, and that is why Indian people worship plants. It can be referred here that a few months ago he made such wild claims about the existence of genetic engineering and plastic surgery in ancient India. We deplore that fact that, the Prime Minister of India, instead of spreading scientific awareness among the people, is constantly making such false and unscientific pronouncements.

It is known that science follows the objective method of studying nature through experimentation, observation, theory-building and hypothesis testing, and only by following this method, man has succeeded in reaching correct understanding of various natural processes including life. Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose also made his fundamental contributions through experiments, where he demonstrated that plants can also respond to sensations and stimuli. The scriptures may and do contain many speculative ideas, but these cannot be taken as scientifically established

truths. The response to stimulus is a natural process, and it provides no evidence of the existence of a *Param Atma* in the trees and plants. In science, there is no place for such speculations. Regarding the worship of plants it can be said that in ancient times people derived many benefits from trees and plants and they regarded the trees and plants as *totem*. Their worship was nothing but expressions of peoples' wish to please the natural objects and forces for getting benefits out of them. There was no supernatural content in their prayer. The Breakthrough Science Society appeals to the scientists, educationists and science-minded people to raise their voice against such unscientific claims.”

News by
Dr. Tapan Si
Office Secretary, Breakthrough Science Society