

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2433  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002  
SETTING UP OF A BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Biotechnology Development Board;
- (b) if so, whether the modalities for the establishment of the Board has been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) : A National Biotechnology Board was formed in 1982 for identification of priority areas and evolving a long term plan in biotechnology as well as to initiate and promote such activities for the development of various areas in biotechnology. With the establishment of a separate Department of Biotechnology in 1986, a further impetus was given to promote R& D and its application. In the 10th plan (2000-07) and Annual Plan 2002-03 of the department, proposals for setting up of a Biotechnology Development Fund to process and speed up commercialization of new biotechnologies has been included and the same is under discussion with Planning Commission.

The main objectives of the proposed Biotechnology Development Fund would be to provide support in high growth. Biotech Ventures involving innovative products, services, processes, technologies aimed at futuristic or new markets in the focus areas of biotechnology.