

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:984

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007

SBIRI

Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is operating a Scheme named "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative" (SBIRI) for promoting Public Private Partnership in R&D of biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features of the scheme;
- (c) is it true that Research and Development of crop varieties done by some institutions has been suffering due to less grant from Government;
- (d) if so, the reasons for sanctioning less grants to these institutions;
- (e) whether the Government will consider to sanction sufficient grants to private institutions to encourage them for R&D in Biotechnology;
- (f) if so, when; and
- (g) the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India is operating a scheme "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)" for promoting Public Private Partnerships in R&D in Biotechnology. The scheme operates in two phases. Under Phase I, high risk, innovative, early stage, pre-proof of concept research and technology development projects are supported. Under Phase II, funding is provided for late development and commercialization of innovative research leads. The details of the scheme are displayed on the web-site of the department ([www.dbtindia.org](http://www.dbtindia.org)) and the scheme has been given wide publicity. Proposals have been considered in the areas of health, agriculture and related areas.

(c) & (d) Funds have not been a constraint in supporting SBIRI proposals that have the required merit. Projects on R&D of crop varieties have been supported under the scheme.

(e), (f) & (g) Yes Sir. The Government will support suitable proposals as and when received in the Department from private institutions as per the existing procedures. The key objectives of the SBIRI scheme is to nurture and mentor innovative technologies/entrepreneurs, and to forge appropriate linkages with the academia and Government. Based on the merit of the proposals, grants will be provided to private and public institutions to encourage them to take up R&D in Biotechnology and strengthen Public Private Partnership.