

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342  
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008  
PROMOTION OF R D IN BIOTECHNOLOGY  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched a new scheme involving Government- Industry partnership for promoting research and development (R&D) in futuristic areas of biotechnology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount earmarked for the scheme during the Eleventh Plan period;
- (d) whether the Union Government has approved National Biodiversity Action Plan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the further action being taken by the Government to promote research and development in biotechnology?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(Kapil Sibal)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 342 BY SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL REGARDING PROMOTION OF R&D BIOTECHNOLOGY TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.12.2008

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved a new scheme - Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme(BIPP) - An Advanced Technology Scheme (ATS), which is a government partnership programme with industry for support on cost sharing basis for high risk discovery and innovation, accelerated technology development specially for futuristic areas.

This new scheme is one of the most enabling mechanisms to promote biotech industry R&D and public private partnership programmes. The scheme provides for a government contribution upto 30- 50% to the industry for discovery linked innovation. Under this advanced technology scheme, support would be provided only for futuristic areas, transformational technology and product development for public good and novel IP generation. Grant in aid support would also be provided for clinical trials of biotechnology health products and field trials of biotechnology agriculture products that are based on indigenous discovery and innovation. The scheme will support major research facilities and platform technology centers as core facilities that are readily accessible to SME's and public sector scientists.

There are four categories of support.

- (i) Partnership with industry for fulfilling major unmet national technology needs in health, agriculture,energy and environment friendly / green manufacturing area.
  - (ii) Partnership with industry for increasing global competitiveness of Indian Industry in new and futuristic technology.
  - (iii) Partnership with Industry for evaluation and validation of already developed products of high national importance.
  - (iv) Shared major facilities around technology platform as core facilities.
- (c) An amount of Rs. 350 crore is available for 11th Plan Period.

(d) & (e) The Union Government has approved the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP).The NBAP document is broadly based on the evaluation of existing legislations, sectoral policies, regulatory systems, implementation mechanisms, existing strategies, plans and programmes. It proposes to design actions based on the assessment of current and future needs of conservation and sustainable utilization, and of physical and fiscal instruments. Many of the activities envisioned in the NBAP are already ongoing, these have been mainstreamed under the ambit of existing schemes and programmes by the Central and State Governments, public and private

sector, as well as civil society organizations.

(f) The Union Government has taken a number of steps to promote R&D in the biotechnology sector. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) established as an independent department of Ministry of Science & Technology in 1986, has been given the mandate for promotion and development of biotechnology. Besides DBT, the Department of Science and Technology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research also support biotechnology research programmes. The main thrust of activities of DBT is on Promotion of R&D programmes, development of products/processes, promotion of public-private-partnership, Human Resource Development, enhancing capacity for technology transfer and commercialization, streamlining of regulatory mechanisms, effective management of intellectual property, creation of centres of excellence and strengthening of infrastructure. Research institutes, universities and voluntary organizations have been supported across the country.