

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2563
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether any special grant has been provided by the Government for Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up Animal Research Facility in RGCB; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir; in addition to the regular core support grant of Rs. 9908 lakhs over the 11th plan period the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) is likely to receive a special grant of Rs.100.00 crores for the new campus and additional R&D activities subject to approval of the proposal by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The special grant is meant to create a new campus and expand the research in the areas of molecular carcinogenesis, infectious diseases biology, stem cell research and drug discovery. The campus would also host business and technology development incubators; and a dedicated "test and prove" platform for bio-pharmaceutical entrepreneurs and companies.

(c) & d) Yes Sir; as part of the expansion programmes of RGCB's R&D activities, a state-of-the-art animal facility is proposed to be build in the second campus. The modern animal research facility is to cater to the advanced research in the areas mentioned above with special focus on: Transgenic and Knock-out Animals; Nude mice/ SCID Mice; Animal Isolators; and Toxicology Testing facility. It is envisaged that once the facility is fully operational, it would also fulfill the needs of the researchers in and around Kerala.