

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1102
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
APPLICATION OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to focus on the application of bio-technology to a few strategically chosen high priority areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to lay framework for enabling participation of all stakeholders, addressing issues on IPR protection, regulatory mechanisms and assuring public acceptance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this direction; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology had formulated a National Biotechnology Development Strategy through two year long country-wide consultations with various stakeholders. The strategy envisages development and application of biotechnology tools and technologies that address the problems of agriculture productivity, food production, nutrition security, health care and environmental sustainability. Various schemes have also been implemented to develop capacity to promote moderate to high level innovation, intellectual property management, technology transfer, education, training for skilled development and improve communication.

(c) & (d): It is proposed to set up a Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to provide a professional and institutional framework for regulation of the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology. A draft Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill has been prepared through a consultative process involving interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial experts, State Governments and Stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia /scientists from research institutions/universities. The proposed Bill also envisages setting up of a National Biotechnology Advisory Council of various stakeholders to advice the authority on policy related issues that may affect the regulation and use of biotechnology products. The council members would include representatives from the scientific community, farmers, consumers, public and private sector and civil society. For IPR protection, the Department of Biotechnology had introduced a draft bill in the Parliament entitled 'Public Funded R&D (Protection, Utilization and Regulation of Intellectual Property) Bill, 2008' for providing a legal framework for promotion of innovation.

(e) Does not arise.