GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3532
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MOLECULAR MATERIALS
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Centre for Molecular Materials has been set up in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred in setting up such Centre; and

(d) the aims and objectives for establishing such a Centre?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES; AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c): The Government has recently approved establishment of a "National Centre for Molecular Materials" (NCMM) at Thiruvananthapuram as an autonomous institute of the Government of India (GOI) under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) at a total cost of Rs.76.70 crores for five years, with an outlay of Rs. 14.55 crores for the XI Plan period. The Centre will be the first of its kind in our country and it will pursue high end science and develop technology in niche areas like sensors for biomedical devices, materials for solar energy harvesting and space electronics. No expenditure has been incurred so far towards setting up the NCMM.

(d) Molecular materials are special class of designer materials with high value applications. The recognition that the molecular materials is crucial for realization of many of the expected benefits of modern technology has prompted Governments of most developed and developing countries, such as the USA, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China as well as most countries in Europe to make heavy investments in the area. The review of the national and international status of the area by DST revealed that, to make some decisive impact, the area has to be nurtured in a concerted manner and hence the need for establishing a Centre dedicated to molecular materials was felt. Taking account of the expertise available and the current level of activity in space and biomedical engineering, a dedicated Center with a mandate to seed applications in areas like space electronics, materials for solar energy harvesting and biosensors for biomedical devices was hence preferred.