

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4733

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010

MOU WITH BBSRC, UK

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed any memorandum of Understanding with Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council (BBSRC), UK in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the extent to which the quality of biological and biotechnological research for sustainable crop production in India will be improved on implementation of said MoU;
- (d) whether any time frame has been fixed for the Letter of Intent for food security sustainable crop production research for international development; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No Madam. However, a Letter of Intent (LOI) on "Food security: Sustainable crop production research for International development" was signed by India and UK on 11 Nov. 2010. The Government of India is represented by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The partners on the UK side include Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), and the Department for International Development (DFID).

The total value of the initiative is estimated to be up to Â£20million over a period of five years. The UK, through BBSRC and DFID will contribute up to Â£15million. The Government of India, through DBT and ICAR will contribute up to Â£5million (Rs.35.5 crores). The fund will be used to support the development of scientific knowledge and expertise, and building of sustainable research capacity that will benefit emerging economies and the developing world.

(c) The programme has been initiated with the aim of generating underpinning scientific knowledge that will increase food security through understanding and countering biotic and abiotic stresses, thereby enhancing sustainable crop production. The initiative is expected to forge productive global partnerships between scientists in the UK, India and other developing countries to leverage high quality biological and biotechnological research for sustainable crop production in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

(d) & (e) The Letter of intent will be in operation for a period of five years.