

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:559

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to open 50 centres of excellence in Science and Technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and areas identified thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether work plan has been drawn for completion and funding of such centres; and
- (d) if so, benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is implementing a programme to augment and strengthen institutional research capacity for promotion of excellence in interdisciplinary science and innovation in specific areas of biotechnology through support for establishment of Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology. The programme provides flexible long-term support for highly innovative research (both basic and translational in nature) in biotechnology. DBT has planned to establish 50 such Centres of Excellence in Biotechnology in the country. So far, 15 Centres have been supported, covering healthcare, agriculture, bioinformatics and basic research in biotechnology. These Centres of Excellence have been established in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has also initiated a proposal for establishment of 50 Centres for Training and Research in the frontier areas of Science and Technology. In addition, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established Centres of Excellence (CoE) at University of Hyderabad; Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore; Calcutta University; Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai; and IIT, Chennai. The establishment of CoE at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata is under progress.

(d): These centres are expected to strengthen an institution's research infrastructure along with developing and enhancing the research capability of the faculty in a specific thematic area of research. A critical mass of young scientists around a leader is also expected to be developed which will lead to enhance the competitiveness of the institution in a specific research area. These centres are expected to generate not only high-quality publications and intellectual property but also translational outputs through high end innovation.