

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:596  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011  
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
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**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the funding for research and development has grown increasingly scarce during the last three years in the country for a majority of firms in the global biotechnology sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to fund and spent more for R&D in the biotechnology sector?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) No Madam. Growth in R&D expenditure at global level in general and life sciences and biotechnology in particular has resumed following recession – induced reductions in advanced economies, while growth R&D in emerging nations such as India and China continued to increase according to a global analysis published in R&D journal 2010 printed by Battelle Memorial Institute, USA ([www.rdmag.com](http://www.rdmag.com)).

(b) In life sciences and biotechnology, the total industrial R&D expenditure at global level in the years 2009 and 2010 was US \$ 123.5 billion and US \$ 133.05 billion respectively. During the current year 2011, it is estimated that to be at the level of US \$ 138.74 billion. In India, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology is the nodal agency of the Government of India to promote and support R&D in biotechnology. Including the contribution of other S&T departments, Indian Council of Agriculture Research and Indian Council of Medical Research, the R&D expenditure during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 has been of the order of Rs. 1131.00 crores, Rs. 1146.00 crores and Rs. 1457.00 crores respectively.

(c) Several steps have been taken in promoting industrial R&D through various public private partnerships schemes. The Small Business Innovative Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme of Department of Biotechnology to fund early stage research has benefited more than 89 small and medium biotech enterprises at the total cost of Rs. 316 crores which includes 48% of industry contribution. Similarly, the Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) launched in 2008-09 has so far benefited so far 51 companies undertaking research in futuristic high risk technologies at a total cost of Rs. 116 crores including 60% of industry contribution. The Technology Department Board of Department of Science & Technology and New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Scheme of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) also contribute to growth of biotech industrial R&D through public private partnerships.