

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6874
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
PROMOTION OF BIO TECHNOLOGY FINISHING SCHOOLS
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the details of different States in the country promoting bio-technology finishing schools to create skilled work force for Biotechnology industry;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a Bio-Informatics Park in the country, especially in Punjab; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof

Answer

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

(a) Department of Biotechnology has initiated a program namely Biotech Industrial Training Program (BITP) to provide industrial exposure of 6 months duration to B.Tech./M.Sc./M.Tech Biotechnology students. Biotech Industrial Training Program provides industry-specific training for skill development and enhancing their job opportunities in biotech industries engaged in R & D, quality control & analysis, production & manufacturing, marketing, regulation and IPR. Over 120 industries are involved in providing training. Department is providing stipend to the trainees and bench fee to the trainer companies. The program is advertised nationally and follows a stringent screening and selection procedure. About 25-30% trainees are absorbed by the trainer industries. This program was initiated in 1992 and has been expanded in terms of number of seats, number of applicants and number of companies involved in training.

Karnataka State Government has initiated a Biotechnology Finishing School in 2011 for providing industrially relevant training to post graduate students in life sciences. 12 colleges from Karnataka have been selected for specialization in 9 areas. Students are provided 1 year training in collaboration with industry, out of which first 6 months are devoted to industrially relevant projects.

Proposal submitted by State Government to the Department of Biotechnology is under consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government proposes to set up a Bioinformatics Park (Bio-IT Park) in the country at the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB), Bangalore, Karnataka State. The Biotechnology Park for Mohali, Punjab is in the process of being set up.

(c) The Bioinformatics Park at Bangalore will focus on the following goals:

1. Conducting cutting-edge research and training
2. Promotion of techno-preneurship in Bioinformatics, and
3. Achieving self-sustenance through commercialization

Infrastructure is being set up and training and research activities are being initiated.