

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has set-up United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Regional Centre for Biotechnology at Faridabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its functions; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the said Centre is likely to be set up and the reasons for delay in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) Yes Madam, the Government has approved setting up of the UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad which is currently operational through an Executive Order from its interim campus at UdyogVihar, Gurgaon since June 2010. The construction activities are in advanced stages of completion at the permanent site in Faridabad.
- (b) The Centre is designated as a category II under the auspices of UNESCO for Biotechnology Education, Training and Research and would be an autonomous body under a statute of the Parliament. The Mission of the Centre is to create physical infrastructure in critical platform technologies and use it to support interdisciplinary education, training and research in biotechnology. The vision is to produce human resource tailored to drive innovation in biotechnology and also to fill talent gap in deficient areas.
- (c) While the Centre is effectively functional at its interim campus at Gurgaon, the delay in construction of the permanent campus at Faridabad has been due to the requirement of obtaining several statutory clearances before the construction activities commenced.