

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014
MANPOWER IN BIO TECHNOLOGY SECTOR
Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

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

- (a) the details of the facilities available for training in the bio-technology sector;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to utilise bio-technology research findings in various sectors including agriculture;
- (c) whether Government has setup a Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) with a view to accelerate product development and commercialization of research findings and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has encouraged the Public Private Partnership in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the benefits achieved therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 259 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/12/2014 REGARDING "MANPOWER IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY SECTOR"

(a) Department of Biotechnology is implementing an integrated human resource development programme to create trained manpower in the field of biotechnology by providing hands on experience to UG science students under star college scheme, supporting M.Sc. /M.Tech. teaching programmes in 71 universities in the country, industrial training for B.Tech./ M.Sc./M.Tech. biotech students and finishing schools for bridging skill gaps and enhancing employment prospects, re-training of existing faculty and scientists in advanced areas for upgrading their skills by conducting short term training courses, providing fellowships for doctoral and post - doctoral research. Department has also instituted Ramalingaswami Re-entry fellowships for encouraging Indian scientists working in overseas laboratories to return to the country and providing opportunity for conducting advanced research or undergoing specialized training CREST (Cutting Edge Research Enhancement and Scientific Training Awards) for Indian scientists in leading overseas laboratories. Department launched DBT-BUILDER (DBT-Boost to University Inter-disciplinary Departments of Life Sciences for Education and Research) for advanced education and research by upgradation/re-engineering/remodelling/ creation of Life science departments in universities. These programmes have resulted in training, attracting and retaining talent to meet the needs of trained manpower in the Country.

(b) Department of Biotechnology is providing support for R & D projects in universities/ institutes through competitive grant system in various sectors of biotechnology including agriculture.

(c), (d) &(e) Yes, Department of Biotechnology has set up Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) with the approval of the Cabinet, as a public sector, 'Not-for- Profit' Section 25 company and Registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) on 20th March, 2012. BIRAC is an interface agency of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, and has the mandate of fostering and nurturing the Biotech Enterprises specially start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) for enhancing their innovation research capacities and promoting affordable product development. BIRAC provides funding support for the various components of Product Development Chain from Discovery, Innovation, Early and Late Stage validation upto pre-commercialization. So far nearly 250 startups and Small and Medium Enterprises and over 100 young entrepreneurs have been supported. 17 Products, 11 new technologies and 24 Intellectual Property (IP) have been generated.