

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3790  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015  
Schemes under BIRAC  
Kalvakuntla Smt. Kavitha

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

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Department of Biotechnology has funded four research projects to assess the toxicity and consumer safety aspects of Genetically Modified crops.

(b) Dr. Nagaraj Kampli, M/s. Metahelix Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore; Dr. Sai Ram, M/s. JK Agri Genetics Ltd., Hyderabad; Dr. Karabi Datta, Deptt. of Botany, University of Calcutta, Kolkata; and Dr. R.K. Gupta, Mother Dairy, New Delhi are involved in research studies related to toxicity and Consumer Safety aspects of Genetically Modified maize, rice and mustard crops.

(c) & (d) Does not arise in view of the above.

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**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) & (b) Madam. Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology and operates different funding schemes for innovation research.

The details of the schemes with their objectives, targets and achievements are as follows:

(i) The Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) is meant to support and nurture high risk and novel concepts. This funding is for Discovery of Proof of Concept. Scheme is for potential entrepreneurs from Academia start up or an Incubatee who have an exciting idea which may be in the nascent and planning stage and there is an unmet need for mentorship and initial funding. 154 young entrepreneur have been supported. 22 individuals have established start-up companies. 20 new IP have been generated.

(ii) Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) is for Discovery to early stage Innovation research. The aim is to strengthen those existing private industrial units whose product development is based on in-house innovative R&D, encourage other smaller businesses to increase their R&D capabilities and capacity, create opportunities for starting new technology-based or knowledge-based businesses by science entrepreneurs, stimulate technological innovation, increase private sector commercialisation derived from Government funded R&D.

A total of 194 projects have been supported under the scheme, and 12 products, 6 Proof-of-Concepts/Technologies & 5 IP were generated.

â€2/-

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(iii) Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) is a government partnership with Industries for support on a cost sharing basis for path-breaking research in frontier futuristic technology areas having major economic potential and making the Indian industry globally competitive. Support is provided for Discovery to late stage research and validation.

A total of 135 projects have been supported under the scheme and 9 products, 9 Proof-of-Concepts/Technologies & 27 IP were generated.

(iv) The Contract Research Scheme (CRS) facilitates the academia-industry interaction to take forward the research leads of Academic Universities and Research Institutes through validation and translation by industry. 14 industry and 16 academia collaboration have been supported. 1 new IP was generated.

(v) Social Innovation Programme for Products Affordable & Relevant to Societal Health (SPARSH) – Scheme aims to invest in ideas and innovations that improve health care of all Indians and provide affordable product development in social sector. The scheme was only started in 2014.

The details of the number of projects supported by each scheme and the financial allocations made during each of the last three years and the current year are follows:

Details of the number of projects supported by each scheme and the financial allocations

S.No. Name of the Scheme Number of Projects Year-wise Financial Allocations (Rs. in crore)

2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16

(upto5/8/15) Total

1 BIG 154 - 5.23 14.22 14.70 34.15

2 BIPP 135 47.36 33.51 36.43 3.77 121.07

3 SBIRI 194 12.68 9.84 9.47 5.05 37.04

4 CRS 14 1.10 1.20 4.49 0.95 7.74

5 SPARSH 14 - - 1.41 0.30 1.71

(c) Total number of call/ announced and total number of proposals received for all schemes are as follows:

S.

No. Name of the Scheme Total Number of Calls Total Number of Proposals received

1 BIG 6 1036

2 BIPP 35 820

3 SBIRI 28 1209

4 CRS 7 181

5 SPARSH 2 173

Total 78

3419

Details of the projects supported under various schemes of BIRAC are available at [http://birac.nic.in/desc\\_new.php?id=145](http://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=145)

(d) A Total of 155 young entrepreneurs and 250 Start-ups and SMEs have been supported so far.

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