

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3759
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
CHEMICALS AND BIOCHEMICALS
A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY;MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

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

- (a) whether the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) initiated a National Facility to Centre for Biochemicals Technology (CBT) for importing Chemicals and Biochemicals;
- (b) if so, the quantity and the cost (in dollars) of the Chemicals and Biochemicals imported during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether DBT used to produce Biochemicals indigenously;
- (d) if so, the details of quantity of Biochemicals produced/distributed and the money received from the sale during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;
- (e) whether the production of the said Biochemicals has been discontinued; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes Sir, The national facility for import and distribution of fine chemicals was established at Centre for Biochemicals (now known as Centre for Biochemical Technology) in April 1987 under a MoU between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and CSIR with the objective 'to ensure that fine chemicals and biochemicals required in biological research are made available expeditiously through centralised import and distribution network'.

(b) Various quantitative measures are used for different biochemicals which cannot be aggregated; the value of imported biochemicals in last three years is given in the table below:

(Value in US Dollars)

Category	Year		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Molecular biologicals	64,683	95,284	52,949
Separation products	38,229	19,538	18,532
Cell culture products	34,611	10,821	10,590
Organic biochemicals	22,128	24,347	21,180
General biochemicals	76,882	77,550	66,187
Biochemicals for newer areas of R&D e.g. genomics etc.	47,094	73,041	95,309
Total value US\$	2,83,627	3,00,581	2,64,747

No. of Laboratories served 657 778 852

(c) &(d): CBT produces a few of the biochemicals needed for R&D and diagnostic purposes and distributes them. The details of biochemicals distributed by CBT are as below:

Value in Rs.lakh

Category

Year

1996-97 1997-98 1998-99

Six biochemicals and
extracts for diagnostic
and therapy purpose

5.0 4.1 4.2

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.