

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2527
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006
BIO TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

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

- (a) Whether the Government has set up a biotechnology centre, under the auspices of UNESCO;
- (b) If so, details thereof;
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to protect the patent in biotechnology, help in having a strong database on sharing genetic resources as well as traditional knowledge;
- (d) Whether the institute is going to offer PG courses in biotechnology; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes sir, The Department of Biotechnology is setting up a Regional Centre for Education and Training in Biotechnology under the auspices of UNESCO in India. The Cabinet and the General Conference, UNESCO both have approved the proposal. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Department of Biotechnology and UNESCO for establishment of the Centre.

(b) The Regional Centre shall be an autonomous institution under the Department of Biotechnology with participation from member states of UNESCO. The role of UNESCO centre will be :

To promote capacity-building through education, training and research and development (R&D) in biotechnology for sustainable development objectives through regional and international cooperation;

To facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology relating to biotechnology area at the regional level;

To create a hub of biotechnology expertise in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region, and more generally in the Asian region, for addressing human resource needs in the region;

To create a network of satellite centres in the region;

To promote and strengthen South-South cooperation. The functions of the Regional Centre shall be:

To execute educational and training activities and transfer knowledge in biotechnology;

To undertake research, development and scientific investigations in collaboration with relevant research centres in the region;

To hold scientific symposia and conferences (regional and international) and to conduct short-term and long-term training courses and workshops in the areas of biotechnology;

To collect universally available information with a view to set up a data bank;

To collect and disseminate the relevant local knowledge, through networking,;

To disseminate the outcomes of research activities in different countries through the publication of books, articles, etc.;

To promote collaborative research and development network programmes in specific areas of biotechnology, exchange and facilitate mobility of scientists at the regional level with due consideration for issues pertaining to intellectual property rights of the collaborating institutions.

The structural and financial organisation will be overseen by a Board of Governors which will be serviced by the Executive Committee and the Programme Advisory Committee.

(c) Patents and IPR emerging out of the research to be carried out in the Regional Centre and its satellites will be equitably shared between the collaborating partners. Provision for sharing of genetic resources would be worked out subsequently following the stipulated respective government norms and policies.

(d) & (e) Yes sir, the Institute is going to offer PG courses in biotechnology and the details of the courses are being worked out.