

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3534  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2007  
FUNDS FOR BIO TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether Government has launched a scheme for funding bio-technology research by small and medium organizations; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has launched the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme for funding bio-technology research by small and medium organizations.

(b) The SBIRI aims to strengthen existing private industrial units in biotech sector whose product development is based on in-house innovative R&D, encourage small businesses to increase their R&D capabilities and capacity, create opportunities for starting new technology-based or knowledge-based businesses. It helps in fostering R&D, and increase private sector commercialization derived from Government funded R&D by promoting public private partnerships. The SBIRI scheme operates in two phases viz. Phase I and Phase II. The funding in Phase I is provided for highly innovative, early stage, pre-proof-of-concept research. Preference is given to proposals that address important national needs. In Phase II, the funding is provided for late stage development and commercialization of innovative research leads. The guidelines and other information on the scheme are available on the web-site of the Department of Biotechnology ([www.dbtindia.org](http://www.dbtindia.org)).