

Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Science & Technology laid a statement regarding status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 208<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2010-11), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation on the actions taken by the Government on Two hundred eighth Report of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2010-2011.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and presented the 208<sup>th</sup> Report thereon to both the Houses on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010. There were twenty four recommendations in 208<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee. Some of them are advisory in nature while some seek clarification. There are appreciative remarks in many recommendations. Excerpts of significant ones are:

â€¢ The Committee appreciated the achievements made by the Department during the Xth Five Year Plan and hoped that the Department would strive towards continuing and strengthening its programme to support the small and medium industrial units to develop cutting edge technologies of high commercial value and intensify exports and at the same time developing technologies for the use of the common man. The Committee noticed that no significant reasons have been provided by DSIR for discontinuance of IRR Scheme;

- The Committee noted with serious concern the significant difference between the demand projected by the Department and the amount actually allocated. The Committee was of the opinion that scientific departments should not be deprived of funds as it would adversely affect research and development which is crucial for the development of the nation. The Committee recommended that the well thought out projected demand of scientific departments should be honoured and accepted by the Planning Commission, specially in view of the fact that scientific research is a capital intensive field;
- The Committee observed that though the Department has been making an outstanding contribution towards the research and development in the various sectors of science & technology and has played a pivotal role in the progress of the country, yet the acknowledgement of its activities has been utterly disappointing and its activities are not popular as compared to those of the other scientific departments. The Committee recommended that the Department should have a comprehensive plan and a separate budget for popularizing its technologies and should double its efforts to communicate its activities and market its products to the Government and the private sector both through audio-visual and print media in a more effective way;
- The Committee also suggested that Planning Commission should, on its part, encourage the scientific departments with adequate fund allocation in keeping with their proposed allocations so that most of the programmes may not be spilled over to the future years and could be completed within the targeted time frame;
- The Committee was of the opinion that 'Global Knowledge Partnerships' are the need of the hour, where both the constituent partners stand to benefit from each other's competence. Such programmes besides building up the confidence of our researchers would also be economically beneficial for the country as the investments costs of the research programmes are shared by both the partnering countries. The Committee recommended that such programmes should be further intensified with more partnerships particularly with South East Asian Countries like Japan, Korea, China etc. apart from other scientifically advanced countries of Europe and strengthened with more funds allocation;
- The Committee recommended that the expansion of National Laboratories should be extended to all the states of the country, with at least one laboratory in each state so that there is equitable scientific progress in each state;
- The Committee recommended that programmes like CSIR-800 should be pursued vigorously and adequately funded so that the objectives of the programme are attained;

- The Committee strongly recommended that the Department should give adequate budgetary support to the innovative programme, 'Open Source Drug Discovery';
- The Committee recommended that the Department should take up the issue regarding improvement in the pay scales of scientists vigorously with the Government to ensure best possible career prospects for them; and
- The Committee appreciated the CSIR's patent utilization rate of 8.67% compared to worldwide statistics. However, the Committee recommended that the Department should increase its focus towards the awareness of Intellectual Property issues so that country's traditional knowledge is well protected and also make sincere efforts for optimal transfer and utilization of Intellectual Property from research institution to industry.

The Action Taken Note on 208<sup>th</sup> Report has been forwarded to Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 28.07.2010, copy of which is annexed.

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...(Interruptions)

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