

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 18.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**NEW R AND D INSTITUTIONS .**

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Shri K.N. Balagopal

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

(a) whether there is any plan to start new R and D institutions in the country in the coming financial year either under the Department of Science and Technology or under the Department of Biotechnology;

(b) if so, the sectors and locations planned; and

(c) whether there is any plan to start a new institutions in Kerala to explore the possibilities of Herbal Technology?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): The Cabinet has very recently approved setting up of a "National Centre for Molecular Materials" as an autonomous institute of the Government of India (GOI) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Centre will focus on Research and Development on molecular materials which are special class of designer materials with potential for high-value applications. The Centre will be located at Thiruvananthapuram. In addition, there is a plan to set up a "National Institute for Himalayan Glaciology" by DST, focusing on research on the Himalayan Glaciers. This Institute will have a network of centres in different regions of the Himalayas. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) does not have any plan to start new R and D institutions in the country in the coming financial year.

(c) No, Sir.