

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**LOK SABHA
ADMITTED/UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023**

Research and Innovation in the Biotechnology Sector

2311. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to increase the incentivization on expenditure incurred by companies engaged in research and innovations in the biotechnology sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government proposes to support local research and development investments in biotechnology sector to provide them a level playing field on global level and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

(a). Currently, research and innovations in the biotechnology sector undertaken by the companies is incentivised by funding part of the research and development cost by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Biotechnology through Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) and Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) schemes as per the details below:

| Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) | |
|---|---|
| Up to 50 lakh | 100% grant from BIRAC (primary applicant + collaborating company, if any) |
| More than 50 lakh | BIRAC grant would be Rs. 50 Lakhs + 50% of the Cost over and above Rs. 50 Lakhs. Remaining cost would be borne by the company |
| Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP): Under this scheme, BIRAC contributes up to 50% of project cost as Grant- In Aid and remaining cost is to be met through the company contribution. | |

(b). The Department of Biotechnology through its various schemes is supporting Biotechnology research and development in our country. Local research is being supported in agriculture biotechnology and allied areas, health, climate change, synthetic biology and sustainable bioresource management etc. These investments have catalysed research activities at local level and created a trained human resource and established infrastructure facilities, vaccine testing facilities, a National Centre for Microbial Resource, Indian Biological Data Centre, a national genomics and genotyping facility, Biotech Startups and incubators etc in different parts of the country. This innovation ecosystem provided a level playing field at a global level and contributed to the development of Rotavirus vaccine for prevention of severe Rotavirus diarrhoea, establishment of an Indian SARS-COV-2 consortium for genomic surveillance, first gene therapy trial approval in India for Haemophila A, vaccines for mitigation of COVID-19 Pandemic, a speed breeding platform to fast track development of agricultural crops, indigenous technology for multiple micronutrient fortified rice, a novel device to reduce post-harvest loss of agriculture produce, low glucosinolate mustard, high protein rice and potato, low oxalic acid tomato and lathyrus, first home grown technology to convert biomass to ethanol to name a few. Further greater investments in biotechnology sector would provide greater opportunities to the academia as well as industry and also create a world class human resource and infrastructure facilities towards a sustainable bioeconomy.
