

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

**LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 692
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/07/2021**

Research Work in Bio-Technology

692: SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to promote research work in the area of bio-technology;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (c): Yes Madam, the Government of India has been promoting research in the area of Biotechnology under its National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025. The guiding principles have been listed to take up biotechnology research and innovation in the country wherein increased focus is given to prepare for future new and emerging technologies, building human and infrastructural capacity, mission programmes aligned with the national and global priorities, building self-reliant India, leveraging the strength of strategic national and international partnerships, etc.

The Department of Biotechnology is supporting and promoting research and innovation in the biotechnology sector by funding research, development, and translation activities in the areas of Agriculture, Animal, Aquaculture, Medical, and Environmental Biotechnology.

The Department is promoting advanced research in emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Genomics, Nanotechnology, Big data, Bio-therapeutics, Bio-resources, Speed breeding, Precision agriculture & medicine, Synthetic biology, Diagnostics, Bio-imaging, etc.

The Department of Biotechnology has set up Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Section 8- public sector undertaking (PSU) to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprises to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs. BIRAC has so far supported over 4000 Entrepreneurs, Startups and SMEs; 60 incubators creating a specialized bio-incubation space of 6,40,340+ sq. ft. with high end infrastructure providing access for Biotech Startups.

There is also a major focus on strengthening the Human Resource and Infrastructural Capacity for cutting edge research activities. A large number of international partnerships have also been supported with bilateral and multilateral agencies.
