

### **Innovation Bill**

2226. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce an Innovation Bill to allow scientists the right to profit from discoveries made using public funding;
- (b) if so, by when this legislation is likely to come into effect;
- (c) whether the proposed Bill will allow Government to receive royalties on inventions made by Government funded scientists; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect public interest in such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has introduced 'The Protection and Utilization of Public Funded Intellectual Property Bill, 2008' in Parliament. The Bill has been referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee.

(c) The Bill provides for scientists to receive a part of royalty. The balance would go to the Government funded research institutions where the research was done.

(d) The Bill contains adequate provisions to protect public interest with regard to protection and utilization of intellectual property originating from public funded research.

### **Granting of recognition to private hospitals as research centres**

2227. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a number of private hospitals in the country have been recognized as research centres and are being given grants for research;
- (b) if so, number of them that are seriously doing research in the real sense of the term; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) No private hospital in the country has been recognized as research center by the Government. However, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), has granted recognition to around 550 Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations (SIROs). Under this scheme, societies, trusts, etc. having an objective of undertaking scientific and/or industrial research are recognized. Around 200 of these SIROs are in the area of medical sciences and some of these operate private hospitals. Some Government departments and agencies such as Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) are giving project oriented funding to these organizations.

(b) and (c) DSIR's recognition procedure ensures that all the recognized SIROs conduct research. SIROs are conducting research in the areas of communicable diseases (e.g. malaria, tuberculosis, AIDS, etc.), non-communicable diseases (e.g. cancer, diabetes, heart diseases) and other areas of medicine and surgery including work in surgical, medical, therapeutics and diagnostics, involving biochemical methods, gene characterization, new drug development, clinical trials and rehabilitation etc.

#### **Entry of GM seeds in food production**

2228. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of countries that admit genetically modified seeds in food crops;

(b) whether a number of foreign countries have taken decisions relating to the admission of GM seeds on the basis of data prepared by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in India; and

(c) the effect of the decision taken by Government to put a moratorium on entry of GM seeds in food products on the decision taken in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Government of India does not maintain database on the status of genetically modified seeds in food crops approved for commercial use in different countries. According to Bio Track database of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and database at Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), GM crops have been approved for use in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, USA and Uruguay. According to the 2009 report of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Application (ISAAA), countries like Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Honduras, Portugal, Poland Romania, Slovakia and Spain are also known to have approved GM crops for commercial use.

(b) Each country has its own legal regulatory framework for elaborate food and environmental safety assessment of GM crops before commercial use. As per international practices, some countries consider food safety data generated in another country to save cost and time. According to information received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Philippines has considered for their approval process, the food/feed safety data of insect resistant brinjal (Bt brinjal) particularly on the toxicology and allergenicity aspects generated in India as available with the Genetically Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).