

(d) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, an ICAR Institution, is making continuous efforts to explore, collect, characterize and safely conserve the native landraces including traditional varieties of all recommended varieties in the National Gene Bank. The National Gene Bank presently holds 3,88,210 accessions of 1584 plant species and these accessions are accessible to the researchers in the country for crop improvement through use in pre-breeding programme and identification of genes through biotech research for incorporating valuable traits in the new varieties. The Government of India has also enacted the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act, 2001 to encourage the development of new varieties of plants and to protect rights of farmers and plant breeders including the rights in respect of their contribution made in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority established under the said Act has constituted "Plant Genome Savior Community Award" to support and reward farmers, communities of farmers in the tribal area, rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in areas identified as agro-biodiversity hot spot.

Statement

The list of multinational companies which are selling the seeds in India

Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1.	Bayer Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Clause (India) Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Dow Agro Sciences India Ltd.
4.	Monsanto India Ltd.
5.	Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd.
6.	PHI Seeds Ltd., (Pioneer)
7.	Syngenta India Ltd.
8.	Sakata Seeds India Pvt. Ltd.

Establishment of IIT in Karnataka

*350. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Karnataka is pending with the Ministry since 2006;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka has written to him and the Prime Minister as recently as in January, 2011;

(c) if so, the progress of consideration of this proposal; and

(d) by when the approval to the said proposal is expected?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Requests for establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology in Karnataka have been received from various quarters from time to time, including one from the Chief Minister of Karnataka in January, 2011. Having regard to regional imbalance and the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the Central Government has, during the Eleventh Plan period, established eight new IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. At present there is no proposal to establish any new IIT in the country.

Free coaching for engineering entrance examinations

†*351. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start free coaching classes for engineering/technical entrance examinations for students belonging to weaker sections and low income group families of rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The National Education Policy, 1986 (modified in 1992) states that the new policy will lay special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunities by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far. In pursuance of the said policy, schemes are already under implementation for coaching classes for engineering/ technical entrance examinations by various Ministries/Departments for the educational advancement of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC) and Minorities.

Indian Institutes of Technology have preparatory courses for SC, ST and Physically Disabled categories. In case all the seats reserved for SC, ST, and PD categories are not filled, a limited number of candidates are admitted to a preparatory course of one-year duration on the basis of a further relaxation of qualifying criteria. On successful completion of the course, the students are offered direct admission to the undergraduate

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.