

- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Coal blocks are allocated by Ministry of Coal for captive purpose and governed as per the terms and conditions of the allocation letters.

(c) UMPPs are awarded by following a transparent competitive bidding process following the guidelines issued by Ministry of Power. The tariff is quoted by the bidders on their own.

(d) to (f) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) have been entered between the procurers (which are mostly State utilities) and developer of power projects (Independent Power Producers (IPPs)). These are legally enforceable contracts between the two parties to be governed by the relevant provisions of the said contract and Ministry of Power has no locus standi in this matter.

#### **Reforms in Biotechnology Sector**

3386. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring reforms in the regulatory framework in the bio-technology sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to increase the present rate of weighted tax deduction due to the long gestation period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with its present status; and
- (e) the manner in which implementation of the proposed reforms would help in improving the bio-technology sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currently, research, import, export, manufacture and use of all biotechnology products and processes involving genetically engineering are regulated through a elaborate food and environmental safety assessment under EPA Act 1986 (Rules 1989) administered under the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. To professionalize the regulatory framework and address increasing complexity of safety assessment of biotech products, based on recommendations of expert committees, it is proposed to establish a Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) through an act of Parliament. Accordingly, a BRAI Bill 2012 has been formulated and placed in the Parliament for introduction following official

procedures and stakeholder consultations. The scope of the bill is to establish independent statutory regulator to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology in terms of safety and efficacy. The commercial aspects of sale, licensing, price control and distribution of all products of modern biotechnology including agriculture and health care are out of the purview of the BRAI Bill and shall be dealt by the current policy and legislations in the Central and State Governments.

(c) No, Sir. There is no fresh proposal to expand the scope and percentage of weighted deduction.

(d) As per the current tax incentives, a 200% weighted deduction is available to firms that are engaged in biotechnology manufacturing or production. 100% Tax free status for Biotech Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for 5 years is also provided. To supplement tax incentive and promote industrial R & D various public private partnerships schemes have also been launched. The Small Business Innovative Research Initiative (SBIRI) scheme of Department of Biotechnology to fund early stage research has benefited more than 89 small and medium biotech enterprises. Similarly, the Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) launched recently, has so far benefited 51 companies undertaking research in futuristic high risk technologies.

(e) During 2011-12, the biotechnology industry revenues reached Rs. 17,800 Crores (US \$ 4 billion mark at prevailing exchange rate) at a growth rate of 21 percent. The implementation of the various innovative schemes and their outputs, along with regulatory reforms, public private partnership schemes would help in sustaining and accelerating the pace of industrial R & D and manufacturing resulting production of affordable products of health care and agriculture, employment creation, import substitution and export promotion.

#### **Indo-China Border Maps**

3387. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the maps drawn by various agencies in India relating to Indo-China boundary, are quite different from each other;

(b) if so, whether authenticated records of proper mapping of the area are available with the Survey of India or any other such Government entity;

(c) whether this fluid situation has resulted in occupation of substantial Indian territory by China;

(d) whether a cohesive unambiguous policy exists for demarcation of our land borders; and

(e) if so, the steps adopted to get back the lost territory?