

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to put in place a system and process so that worthless patents are not filed and demonetization of patents is pursued vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam. CSIR has sent out a message to all its laboratories to avoid filing of patents without appropriate techno-commercial evaluation.

(b) In order to align the IP strategy of CSIR with the priorities of socio-economic development including escalating costs of patent filings, this message was sent to exercise utmost due diligence in filing of patents.

(c) CSIR has taken following steps to put in place an appropriate system:

- (i) Establishment of IP Directorate at CSIR to analyse IP (Intellectual Property) life cycle from generation to exploitation. .
- (ii) Preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and guidelines for evaluation of inventions in alignment with National IPR Policy.

#### **Innovative way to fortify rice**

1062. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology has developed an innovative way to fortify rice with iron and other nutrients, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to take forward the rice fortification model to all parts of the country to deal with nutritional deficiency among the women and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through R&D support to IIT-Kharagpur has developed the requisite technology on rice fortification with Iron for addressing the incidence of anaemia. This involves production of Iron fortified rice premix through extrusion process using broken rice kernels. This iron fortified rice kernel premix matches with the normal rice kernel in shape and size, and when mixed with normal rice in the ratio of 1:100 provides 50% of Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of Iron. This technology can also be used to fortify rice with other micro nutrients, as well. The incremental cost of fortification has been estimated by IIT-Kharagpur to be upto 80 paise per kg. of rice.

(b) The steps taken by Government to take forward the rice fortification model to all parts of the country to deal with nutritional deficiency among the women and children is as follows:

A Pilot Scale Unit with a capacity of 100 kg/hr/shift has been commissioned at IIT Kharagpur. The technology is ready for demonstration and transfer to prospective entrepreneurs. The same can be commercialised. However, for introduction in the Government programmes such as Mid-day Meal Scheme and ICDS to address micro nutrient deficiencies in children, DBT would be willing to set up pilot scale production unit in States who would be interested. Accordingly, an MoU could be executed between DBT and the respective State Government Departments. This technology was also deliberated in the "National Summit on Fortification of Food" which was an Inter Ministerial meeting convened by FSSAI on 16th and 17th October, 2016, which was attended by State and Central Government Officials, Industry representatives and academia. Further, DBTs' proposal on the above issue has also been shortlisted in the Inter State Council Secretariat for the Eastern Zonal States-Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal under their social outreach programme.

#### **Jobs under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

†1063. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana; and
- (b) the type and number of new jobs likely to be created under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2015-16 was implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with the objective to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant short term fresh skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills were also assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) category.

After successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) during 2015-16, Government has modified its guidelines to make more effective, transparent and beneficiary oriented. Under modified PMKVY (2016-20), Government runs high employment potential industry relevant courses for prospective candidates. Industries are actively participating as accredited and affiliated training partners/centers in imparting training-cum-placement activities as per National Skill

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.