

(b) The purpose of the annual session of the Indian Science Congress is for informal exchange of information among the scientists/technologists/researchers of various levels. There are also presentation of papers/posters on the focal theme of the session. The focal theme of the 89th Session of Indian Science Congress was on "Health Care, Education & Information Technology". The Congress also formulates recommendations on the focal theme for consideration by the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The draft of the new National Science & Technology Policy has been subjected to a wide ranging process of consultation and discussion before submission to appropriate levels in the Government for adoption and approval.

Biotechnology Development Board

2208. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to form the Biotechnology Development Board to support the process of commercialising new or available technologies;

(b) whether modalities for formation of this Board have been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) A National Biotechnology Board was formed in 1982 for identification of priority areas and evolving a long term plan in biotechnology as well as to initiate and promote such activities or the development of various areas in Biotechnology. With the establishment of a separate Department of Biotechnology in 1986, a further impetus was given to promote R&D and its application. In the 10th plan (2002—07) and Annual Plan 2002-03 of the department, proposals for setting up of a Biotechnology Development Fund to process and speed up commercialization of new Biotechnologies has been included and the same is under discussion with Planning Commission.

The main objective of the proposed Biotechnology Development Fund would be to provide support in high growth, Biotech Ventures involving innovative products, services, processes, technologies aimed at futuristic or new markets in the focussed areas of Biotechnology.

Government owned steel plants

†2209. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of Government owned steel plants have not been able to achieve their production target;

(b) if so, the details of performance of each of the steel plant during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to modernise most of the plants, with a view to increase their production capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The performance of SAIL and RINL for the last 3 years was as under:

I. STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD. (SAIL)

Saleable Steel

Plant	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
BSP	3615	3352	3270	3411	3500	3307
DSP	1588	1319	1532	1402	1520	1196
RSP	1390	1114	1238	1170	1490	1291
BSL	3062	2541	3210	3246	3430	3313
ASP	145	99	70	83	90	79
SSP	225	119	120	148	120	129
VISP	72	57	60	69	65	85

†Original notice of the question was received in-Hindi.