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विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी तथा पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
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MESSAGE

Biotechnology impacts on agriculture and food nutrition, human health and animal productivity, energy, sustainable industrial growth, environmental security and other areas. The sector is experiencing accelerated growth during the last 4-5 years in India, and is already showing signs of becoming the engine that will drive socio-economic growth in the coming years. The Indian biotech industry, traditionally strong in manufacturing and services, is currently poised to enter the phase of discovery and innovation.

The Government has been proactively providing support to the sector. The National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been approved recently and several measures outlined in it are already implemented. The Department of Biotechnology has pledged 30% of its budget in the 11th Five Year Plan to public-private partnership. An independent, professionally-led National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority is on the anvil. A new legislation of protection of intellectual property in public-funded R&D, on the lines of the Bayh-Dole Act is shortly being introduced in the Parliament. A whole suite of measures are being introduced to promote world class human capital and centres of excellence in lifesciences and biotechnology. Hopefully these initiatives will lay a strong foundation for discovery and innovation, effectively utilizing novel technology platforms with potential benefits to society.

In this new milieu, India looks forward to forge new and strategic global partnerships in lifesciences and biotechnology. The US-India Bio Pharma Summit 2008 being organized under the auspices of USA-India Chamber of Commerce in association with the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India at Cambridge, Massachusetts is a very good platform to strengthen collaboration between India and US partners.

I wish the programme all success.

(KAPIL SIBAL)