

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

No.18/1/2015-Admn-II(Pt.)

Dated:23.11.2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Please find enclosed herewith letter No. 592/2/1/2015-CA.V dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 received from Under Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat/Mantrimandal Sachivalaya, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi regarding Review of National Biotechnology Development Strategy II (NBDS II)-2015-2020.

*Bharat Bhushan*

(Bharat Bhushan)  
Admn. Officer

*OIC*

Distribution

Heads of all Technical Divisions

*4/11/16*

copy to :

1. PS to DG
2. PS to Sr. DDG(A)
3. PS to Sr. FA *Admn 4/11/16*
4. PS to ADG(A) (JP) (AX) *4/11/16*
5. BIC – to upload the above mentioned letter on ICMR website.
6. Shri Manoj Pant, Joint Secretary, Department of Health Research, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, IRCS building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001.
7. Shri R.P. Meena, Joint Secretary, Department of Health Research, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, IRCS building, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110001.



SECRET

Copy No. 9

No. 592/2/1/2015-CA.V  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR  
CABINET SECRETARIAT/MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA  
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

DG. ICMR OFFICE

Diary No.: 80 - CAB

Date: 11/11/15

\*\*\*\*\*

New Delhi, dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

**Subject: - Review of National Biotechnology Development Strategy II (NBDS II) - 2015-2020.**

The undersigned is directed to send herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 20.11.2015 at 04.30 p.m. in the Committee Room of Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on the above subject.

Encl: Doc. No.(CA.V):45/2015 -

*AO (Admin) -  
May pt. see Minutes  
Circulate to div. chiefs  
JS, MP & RPM  
11/12*

*Rajeev*  
(Rajeev Kr. Jain)  
Under Secretary

Tele No: 2301 3113/2301 4378

To

- Secretary, D/o Biotechnology
- Secretary, M/o Science & Technology
- Secretary, M/o Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- Secretary, D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion
- Secretary, D/o Scientific & Industrial Research
- Secretary, M/o AYUSH
- Secretary, M/o Earth Sciences
- Secretary, M/o New & Renewable Energy
- Secretary, D/o Health Research
- Secretary, D/o Agriculture Research & Education

**Copy forwarded to:**

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister

*Rajeev*  
(Rajeev Kr. Jain)  
Under Secretary

**Internal circulation(only one copy)**  
CS/Secy.(C)/Spl. Secy./JS(TKP)/Dir(AD)

**Copies 14**

*MS. 21/12  
21/12/15  
By No 1529  
2/12/15*

No. 592/2/1/2015-CA.V  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR  
CABINET SECRETARIAT/MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA  
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

\*\*\*\*\*

Doc. No. (CA.V): 45/2015

Minutes of the meeting

Venue : Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat  
Date of Meeting : 20.11.2015  
Time of Meeting : 04.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Shri P.K. Sinha, Cabinet Secretary  
Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Secretary(C), Cabinet Secretariat  
Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Secretary, D/o Biotechnology  
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Secretary, D/o Health Research  
Shri Hem Kumar Pande, Spl. Secretary, M/o Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Dr. Renu Swarup, Scientist 'H', D/o Biotechnology  
Dr. Sudeep Kumar, Head, P&P Division, D/o Scientific and Industrial Research  
Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat  
Shri Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion  
Dr. Manoj Nesari, Advisor, M/o AYUSH  
Dr. J C Sharma, Eco. Advisor, M/o New and Renewable Energy  
Dr. Sanjay Bajpai, Scientist 'G', D/o Science and Technology  
Dr.M.P. Wakdikar, Scientist 'G', M/o Earth Sciences  
Dr.K.V Prabhu, Joint Director, IARI, D/o Agriculture Research & Education  
Dr. Amarpreet Duggal, Director, Cabinet Secretariat  
Dr. Kalaivani Ganesan, Scientist 'D', D/o Biotechnology

**Subject: - Review of National Biotechnology Development Strategy II (NBDS II) - 2015-2020.**

A meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) chaired by Cabinet Secretary was held on 20.11.2015 at 04.30 p.m. in the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan on the above-mentioned subject.

2. Initiating the discussion, Secretary, Department of Bio-technology (DBT) recalled that the National Bio-technology Development Strategy-I (NBDS-I) had been announced in September, 2007 for a period of five years. Through the strategy, bio-technology had been recognized as a sunrise sector that needed focused attention. Most of the initiatives announced in the 2007 strategy were in place. A need was, therefore, felt to take a critical look at the Indian bio-tech sector as it is likely to unfold over the next 5-6 years. As such, NBDS-II (2015-2020) has been prepared.

3. Secretary, DBT explained that the **mission of NBDS (2015-2020)** is to provide impetus to the utilization of knowledge and tools to the advantage of humanity; to create a strong infrastructure for R&D and commercialization; to empower India's human resource scientifically and technologically; to focus on investment for generation of new bio-tech products; and to establish India as a world class bio-manufacturing hub.

4. It was informed that the **key elements of the strategy** include the following:

- i) Building a skilled workforce and leadership
- ii) Revitalizing knowledge environment at par with the growing bioeconomy
- iii) Enhancing research opportunities in basic, disciplinary and interdisciplinary sciences
- iv) Encouraging use-inspired discovery research
- v) Focussing on bio-technology tools for inclusive development
- vi) Commercialization of technology by nurturing innovation, translational capacity and entrepreneurship
- vii) Ensuring a transparent, efficient and globally best regulatory system and communication strategy
- viii) Fostering of global and national alliances
- ix) Strengthening institutional capacity with redesigned governance models
- x) Creating a matrix of measurement of processes and outcomes

5. It was stated that the **expected deliverables of the strategy** include the launch of four major missions viz. **Healthcare, Food and Nutrition, Clean Energy and Education** and also a strategic and focused investment in building the human capability by creating a Life Sciences and Bio-technology Education Council.

6. Secretary, **D/o Health Research (DHR)** stated that since the area of human health research overlaps with the mandate of ICMR/DHR, the missions envisaged in the NBDS-II need to be inter-Ministerial so that there could be seamless interaction on common problems. There is a need to build consensus on several issues such as stem cells, genetically modified organisms, recombinant vaccines etc. Citing the problem of plethora of agencies from whom permissions are required for conducting clinical trials at present, she emphasized upon the need for simplification of procedures and development of a strong regulatory system.

7. **M/o Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** drew attention to the fact that the strategy envisages providing impetus to production of bio-tech products and development of bio-technology partnership between public and private sectors. This would entail access to and utilization of bio-resources that may attract provisions of the Biological Diversity Act (BDA). Therefore, it was important that a provision may be included in the strategy to the effect that all relevant extant domestic regulations as well as international laws relating to access to and use of bio-resources, to which India is a party, would be complied with. DBT stated that a relevant provision regarding the compliance with extant domestic and international regulations/laws has been incorporated in the strategy. Certain problems were highlighted regarding the manner in which foreign shareholding is currently

defined in the BDA and how it prevents even Indian companies with non – substantive foreign shareholdings, especially from FIIIs, from accessing Indian bio-diversity and conducting research. MoEFCC informed that they would resolve these issues early.

8. **Ministry of AYUSH** stated that there is tremendous scope of collaborative research in areas such as addressing the health issues of mother and child, individualized treatment of chronic disease through Ayurveda etc. It was stated that the Ministry supports the proposal to establish natural product repository in collaboration with DBT. Secretary, DBT mentioned that existing infrastructure/facilities would be utilized for research undertaken by DBT under NBDS-II.

9. **D/o Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)** mentioned that CSIR has laboratories in almost all areas of biology and these labs have business development divisions that have experience of setting up centres such as technology transfer organizations proposed to be set up under NBDS-II. Further, partnership with industry is an integral part of research and there should be an enabling clause to leverage the gains that accrue from such activities. A holistic approach involving CSIR would be useful for technology transfer in the country. **D/o Science and Technology** stated that they were already working in collaboration with DBT in many programs and that they supported the instant proposal.

10. **D/o Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)** raised certain points regarding granting and ownership of intellectual property rights (IPR), confidentiality, ensuring protection of IPR, creating awareness about IPR.

11. **M/o New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** mentioned that several areas require focus and research such as enzymes and microbial research for clean energy, sustainable agriculture for food requirements etc. Attention was drawn to the difficulty in conducting trials in the States and it was requested that the issue needed to be addressed in the strategy. **M/o Earth Sciences (MoES)** also stated that several of their units are engaged in various activities pertaining to bio-technology such as documentation of marine diversity in the Indian EEZ and high seas involving DNA bar coding as part of census of marine life, bio-geographical mapping of living resources, research in bio-fuel technology etc. It would, therefore, be pertinent to take into consideration these existing facilities/activities so that duplicity is avoided and complementarity is ensured. **D/o Agricultural Research (DARE)** drew attention to the fact that research pertaining to several bio-technology subjects was being conducted in various institutes across the country e.g. GM foods, animal husbandry, agriculture, aquaculture, etc. It was, therefore, important for DBT to leverage further research on the results of existing research being conducted by DARE at its institutes. **DBT informed that these aspects would be taken care of during implementation.**

12. It was observed that the Departments/Ministries present in the meeting affirmed that NBDS-II was comprehensive and well drafted. It was noted that NBDS-I had been broadly approved by CoS in 2007 on the basis of which DBT had implemented the

strategy. In the instant case, DBT had carried out detailed inter-Ministerial consultations in the process of development of NBDS-II and had incorporated the concerns raised by the Ministries/Departments.

13. After detailed deliberations, the CoS broadly concurred with the draft of NBDS- II and made the following recommendations:-

- i. As part of the four major missions on Healthcare, Food & Nutrition, Clean Energy and Education, DBT may identify specific items of research and application, for instance, impact of climate change, drug resistant bugs, vaccines etc.
- ii. Considering that inter-Ministerial coordination would be vital to the success of NBDS-II, DBT may create a permanent mechanism to strategize and sort out problems requiring inter-Ministerial coordination.
- iii. Since substantial independent research is taking place already in several areas impinging on bio-technology, DBT may endeavor to network with the various institutions conducting such research in order to capitalize upon the advances already made. DBT may also identify areas where research on global basis could be possible, as also areas where India can be a global leader.
- iv. DBT may take further necessary action to obtain approval of the competent authority for the NBDS-II.

\*\*\*\*\*

