

BT7TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

**THE BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
BILL, 2009**

BILL

for establishment of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology and for matters connected

therewith or incidental thereto in order to promote the safe use of modern biotechnology by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory procedures.

Whereas the modern biotechnology offers opportunities to address important needs related to health, agriculture, food production and environment;

And whereas India is a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed at Rio de Janeiro on the 5th day of June, 1992 which came into force on the 29th December, 1993; and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention which was adopted in Montreal on the 29th September, 2000 and came into force on the 11th September, 2003;

And whereas the aforesaid Convention and the Protocol provide that each Contracting party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology;

And whereas the Protocol provide that the Parties to the Protocol shall ensure that the development, handling, transport, use, transfer and release of any living modified organisms are undertaken in a manner that prevents or reduces the risks to biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health;

And whereas it is considered necessary to take measures for the safe and responsible use of biotechnology for safeguarding the health and safety of the people of India and to protect the environment and consolidate regulatory policies, rules and services under a single regulatory regime and also to give effect to the aforesaid Convention and Protocol.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixtieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2009.

Shot title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(5) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

(4) Any reference in this Act to a law which is not in force in the State of

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Jammu and Kashmir shall in relation to that State be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in that State.

Declaration as to control by Union. 2. It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take under its control the regulation of organisms, products and processes of modern biotechnology industry.

Deinitions. 3, { n this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "animal clones^{1*}" means animals derived through somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques;

(b) "Appellate Tribunal" means the Biotechnology Regulatory Appellate Tribunal established under section 43;

(c) "Authority" means the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 4;

(d) "Biotechnology" means modern biotechnology as deined under clause (l);

(e) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Authoity appointed under section 5;

(f) "Chief Regulatory Officer" means the head of a Division of the Authority under sub-section (3) of section 21;

(g) "clinical trial" means systematic study of any new organism or product specied in Schedule I in human for the purpose of generating data for discovering or veriyng its clinical, pharmacological (including pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic) biological, or, adverse effects with the objective of determining safety, efficacy or tolerance of that organism or product;

(h) "confidential commercial information" means,—

(l) a trade secret or any other information which has a commercial or other value which would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if such information was disclosed; or

(if) such other information which relates to lawful commercial or inancial affairs of a person, organisation or undertaking dealing with organisms or products specified under Part I or Part II or Part III of Schedule I which, if disclosed, could adversely affect such person, organisation or undertaking;

(o) "conjugation" means the union of gametes or unicellular organisms during fertilisation;

(f) "containment" means measures and protocols applied to limit contact of genetically engineered organisms or products with the environment external to the containment facility;

(k) "containment facility" means an enclosed structure with walls, floor and ceiling, or an area within such building, where containment is in accordance with the physical and operational requirements specified and

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

regulated under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 18;

29 of 1986. (o) "environment" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (a) of section 2 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(m) "environmental release" means the use of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment outside of any containment;

(n) "field trials" means a field experiment of growing a genetically engineered organism in the environment under specified terms and conditions which are intended to mitigate the establishment and spread of the organism;

(d) "Fund" means a fund constituted under sub-section (f) of section 72;

(p) "import" means to bring into India the products of modern biotechnology by land, sea or air;

(q) "manufacture" means and includes the preparation, compounding, propagation, processing, or fabrication of any organism or product regulated under this Act;

(r) "Member" means a whole time Member of the Authority appointed under section 5 and includes the Chairperson;

(s) "modern biotechnology" means the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family, that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection but does not include tissue culture of unmodified plant cells; animal cell culture of unmodified gametes; and natural processes such as conjugation, transduction, transformation; polyploidy induction; and mutation breeding;

(f) "Monitoring Officer" means a person appointed as such under sub-section (7) of section 37;

(w) "mutation breeding" means a process which involves the use of ionizing radiation or chemical mutagenesis to induce mutations in the genome;

(v) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression "notify" shall be construed accordingly;

(w) "organism" means any genetically engineered organism, excluding humans, which is a product of modern biotechnology;

(x) "polyploidy induction" means the induction of a cell to have more than twice the basic or haploid number of chromosomes;

(y) "premises" means a building or structure or part of a building or structure or land;

(z) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the Central Government under this Act;

(za) "regulations" means regulations made by the Authority under this

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Act;

(zb) "Schedule" means Schedules I and II to this Act;

(zc) "State Government" in relation to a Union territory means the Administrator of that Union territory appointed by the President under article 239 of the Constitution;

(zd) "transduction" means the natural transfer by means of a viral vector of a deoxyribonucleic acid sequence from one cell to another;

(ze) "transformation" means any reference to the natural transfer of genetic material from the donor to the recipient;

(zf) "University Grants Commission" means University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956;

3 of 1956.

(zg) "use" means authorisation of an organism or product regulated under this Act as safe for its intended purpose and such authorisation shall be subject to all other laws for the time being in force and rules and regulations made there under.

Chapter II

Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India

Establishment of
Biotechnology
Regulatory
Authority
of
India.

4. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Authority to be known as the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to exercise the powers conferred on it and to perform the functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate, by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of properties, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

(5) The head office of the Authority shall be at Delhi.

(4) The Authority may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, establish its offices at any other place in India.

Composition
of
Authority.

5. The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson and two whole-time Members to be appointed by the Central Government.

Qualifications
for
appointment
of
Chairperson
and
Members.

6. (1) The Chairperson of the Authority shall be a person of ability, integrity and outstanding scientific calibre with a doctorate degree or equivalent degree in the field of life sciences or a postgraduate degree in medical sciences from a university recognised by the University Grants Commission or a university or institute established by law for the time being in force, and having not less than twenty years experience in a leadership role in a scientific organisation, scientific institution or scientific agency, or similar organisation or institution or agency, out of which at least five years should be as head of the organisation or institution or agency, as the case may be.

(2) A Member, shall be a person of ability, integrity and outstanding scientific calibre with a doctorate degree or equivalent degree in the field of life sciences or a postgraduate degree in medical sciences from a University

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

recognised by the University Grants Commission or established by law for the time being in force, and having not less than fifteen years experience in a leadership role in a scientific organisation, scientific institution or scientific agency:

Provided that the Central Government shall, while appointing the Members, ensure that one such Member is a person having requisite knowledge and experience in the field of health care or industrial biotechnology and areas connected therewith and other Member is a person having requisite knowledge and experience in the field of agriculture or environment biotechnology and areas connected therewith.

(3) The Chairperson and Members of the Authority shall be appointed on the recommendation of the Selection Committee constituted under sub-section (1) of section 7.

(4) The Chairperson or the Member of the Authority shall not hold any other office during the period of holding his office as such.

(5) The Central Government shall, within a period of two months from the date of occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the Chairperson or Member, by reason of death, resignation or removal of the Chairperson or a Member and six months before the superannuation or completion of the term of office of the Chairperson or a Member, make a reference to the Selection Committee constituted under section 7 for filling up of such vacancy.

7. (7) The Central Government shall, for the purpose of selection of the Chairperson and Members, constitute a Selection Committee consisting of—

Selection Committee
for selection of
Chairperson and
Members.

(a) Cabinet Secretary - Chairperson of the Selection Committee;

(b) Secretary-in-charge of each Ministry or the Department of the Central Government dealing with health research, agriculture, biotechnology and personnel - Members;

(c) two eminent biotechnologists to be nominated by the Central Government - Members.

(2) A scientist not below the rank of Grade 'G*' in the Department of Biotechnology in the Ministry of Science and Technology shall be the convenor of the meetings of the Selection Committee.

(3) The Selection Committee shall finalise the selection of the Chairperson and Members of the Authority within two months from the date on which the reference is made to it under sub-section (5) of section 6.

(4) The Selection Committee shall recommend a panel of two names for every vacancy referred to it.

(5) Before recommending any person for appointment as a Chairperson or a Member of the Authority, the Selection Committee shall satisfy itself that such person does not have any financial or other conflict of interest, which is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as Chairperson or Member, as the case may be.

(6) No appointment of the Chairperson or Member of the Authority shall

BTYTC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy in the Selection Committee.

(7) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (1) to (6), the Selection Committee may regulate its own procedure.

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8. (1) The Chairperson shall have powers of general superintendence and direction in the conduct of the affairs of the Authority (including all its decisions, risk assessment unit, other units and Product Ruling Committees) and he shall, in addition to presiding over the meetings of the Authority, and without prejudice to any of the provisions of this Act, exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the Authority as may be prescribed.

Functions
Chairperson of

(2) The Chairperson shall be responsible for—

- (a) the day-to-day administration of the Authority;
- (b) implementing the work programmes and the decisions of the Authority;
- (c) the preparation of the statement of revenue and expenditure and the execution of the budget of the Authority;
- (d) submission of the annual report of the Authority in the form and manner as specified under section 74.

(3) Without-prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-sections (7) and (2), the Chairperson shall be the chief executive of the Authority and shall exercise such powers and discharge such functions as chief executive of the Authority as may be prescribed,

(4) The Chairperson, or a Member or an officer of the Authority if so authorised by the Chairperson, shall approve all financial expenditures of the Authority.

Term of office
and other
conditions of
service of
Chairperson and
Members.

9. (1) The Chairperson and other Members shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which they enter upon their offices, and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of three years:

Provided that the Chairperson or a Member shall not hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty five years.

(2) The Chairperson and every Member shall, before entering upon his office make and subscribe, to an oath of office and of secrecy, in such form and in such manner and before such authority as may be prescribed.

(3) Any person holding any office (whether as an employee or an officer or a director or managing director or secretary or manager or in any other capacity) under the Central Government or State Government or in a company (including a Government Company referred to in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956) or in any other institution, organisation, society or University or Board, shall, on his selection as the Chairperson or a Member, be required to seek retirement or resign from the services of such Central or State Government or company or institution or organisation or society or University or Board, as the case may be, before accepting the employment as the Chairperson or Member,

1 of 1956

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(4) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and Members shall be such as may be prescribed:

Provided that the salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson or a Member shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chairperson or Member may-

(a) relinquish his office by giving in writing to the Central Government a notice of not less than three months; or

(b) be removed from his office in accordance with the provisions of section 11.

Restriction on
Chairperson or
Members on
employment after
cessation of
office.

10. (7) The Chairperson or a Member, ceasing to hold office as such, shall not—

(a) for a period of two years from the date on which they cease to hold office, accept any employment in, or connected with the management or administration of, any person which has been associated with or granted authorisation for research, transport or import of organisms or products or manufacture or use of organisms and products under this Act:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to any employment under the Central Government or a State Government or local authority or in any statutory authority or any corporation established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956; or

(b) act, for or on behalf of any person or organisation in connection with any specific proceeding or transaction or negotiation or a case to which the Authority is a party and with respect to which the Chairperson or such Member before cessation of his office had acted for, or provided advice to, the Authority; or

(c) give advice to any person (including his client, business associate or employer) using information which was obtained in his capacity as the Chairperson or a Member and being not available or cannot be made available to the public; or

(d) for a period of two years from his last day in office, enter into a contract of service with, accept an appointment to a board of directors of, or accept an offer of employment with, an entity with which he had direct and significant official dealings during his term of office as such without the due approval of the Central Government.

(2) The Chairperson and Members shall not communicate or reveal to any person any matter which has been brought under his consideration or known to him while acting as such.

BT/T C/NBRA/03/20 OS
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

21. (f) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (i) of section 9, the Central Government may, by order, remove from office, the Chairperson or any Member, if he —

Removal of Chairpersons and Members.

(a) has been adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as Chairperson or Member; or

(d) has acquired such financial or other interests as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

(2) The Chairperson or any Member shall not be removed under clauses (d) and (e) of sub-section (f) unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

12. (7) The Authority shall meet at such times and places, and observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including quorum at such meeting) as may be specified by regulations.

Meetings of Authority.

(2) The Chairperson, if for any reason, is unable to attend a meeting of the Authority, the senior most Member shall preside at the meeting.

(5) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Authority shall be decided by a majority vote of the Members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence, the Member presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

Vacancies, etc., not to invalidate proceedings of Authority.

13. No act or proceeding of the Authority shall be invalidated merely by reason of—

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Authority; or

(b) any defect in the appointment of a person as a Member of the Authority; or

(c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Authority not affecting the merits of the case.

Chief Regulatory Officers and other employees of Authority.

14. (1) The Authority may appoint, such number of, Chief Regulatory Officers and other officers and such other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions and exercise of its powers under this Act.

(2) The salaries, allowances and pensions payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the Chief Regulatory Officers and other officers and employees of the Authority, shall be such as may be prescribed.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Chapter III
Inter-ministerial Advisory Board and Biotechnology
Advisory Council

Constitution of
Inter-Ministerial
Advisory Board.

15. (f) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute an Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board to promote Inter-Ministerial or Departmental co-operation required for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board shall consist of members representing following Ministries, Departments, Council, Officers, Directorate and authorities of the Central Government or under its control or established under the Central Acts, namely :-

- (a) the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (b) the Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
- (c) the Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (d) the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
- (e) the Ministry of External Affairs;
- (f) the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture;
- (g) the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture;
- (h) the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology;
- (i) the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology;
- (j) the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture being registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860; 21 1860-
- (k) the Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, being society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860; 21 of 1860.
- (l) the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology;
- (m) the office of the Drug Controller General of India or office of any other authority regulating the manufacture or sale of drugs;
- (n) the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Ministry of Agriculture;
- (o) the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; 34 of 2006.
- (p) the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India, established under this Act;
- (q) such other officer of the Central Government as may, be specified, by notification, by the Central Government.

(3) No Ministries, Departments, Councils, offices, Directorate and authorities referred to in clauses (a) to (q) of sub-section (2) shall nominate any person below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India or equivalent rank to represent such Ministries, Departments, Councils, office, Directorate and Authorities, in the Inter- Ministerial Advisory Board.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(4) The Secretary, in the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology shall be the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board.

(5) One of the Members of the Authority, as may be nominated by the Chairperson of the Authority, shall be the convenor of meeting of the InterMinisterial Advisory Board.

(6) The functions of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board shall be to ensure co-ordination amongst various Ministries, Departments, Councils, Office, Directorate and Authorities on the matters of policy relating to modern biotechnology and discharge such other functions as may be prescribed.

(7) The expenses for attending the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board (including travel expenses or any other allowances) shall be borne by the respective Ministries, Departments, Councils, office. Directorate and Authorities, whom they represent under clauses (a) to (q) of sub-section (2)-

16. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute a Biotechnology Advisory Council to render strategic advice to the Authority on the matters relating to developments in modern biotechnology and their implications in India. Constitution of Biotechnology Advisory Council.

(7) The Biotechnology Advisory Council shall consist of a Presiding Officer and members not exceeding fifteen comprising from the following, namely:—

- (a) Chairperson of the Authority - Presiding Officer;
- (b) plant scientist {from public or private sector};
- (c) animal or veterinary scientist (from public or private sector);
- (d) industrial or environmental scientist (rom public or private sector);
- (e) medical or pharmaceutical scientist (rom public or private sector);
- if) nutritionist or community health specialist;
- (g) representative rom consumer affairs organisation;
- (h) representative rom farmers organisation;
- (0) economist;
- (1) ethic 1st;
- (k) legal expert;
- (l) any other person not falling under clauses (a) to (A).

(3) The members of Biotechnology Advisory Council referred to in clauses (b) to (l) shall be appointed, on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board, by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed so as to secure the highest standards of competence, relevant expertise, and the broadest possible geographic representation within the country-

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(4) One of the Members of the Authority, as may be nominated by the Chairperson of the Authority, shall be the convenor of the meeting of the Biotechnology Advisory Council.

(5) The Members of the Biotechnology Advisory Council shall hold office as such for a term of three years from the date on which they enter upon their office and shall be eligible for reappointment for a further period of three years.

(6) The functions of the Biotechnology Advisory Council shall be to advise the Authority on the relevant practices on the matters relating to modern biotechnology products, their uses, safety and effects and discharge such other functions, as may be prescribed.

(7) The expenses for attending the meeting of the Biotechnology Advisory Council (including travel expenses and sitting fee) or any other allowances incurred by the members shall be borne by the Authority.

Meetings of
Inter-Ministerial
Advisory Board
and
Biotechnology
Advisory
Council.

17. The Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board and the Biotechnology Advisory Council shall meet at such times and places, and shall observe such procedures in regard to the transaction of business at their meetings, (including the quorum), as may be prescribed.

Chapter IV
Functions and Powers of Authority

Functions and
Powers of
Authority.

18. (7) It shall be the duty of the Authority to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products as specified in Schedule I so as to ensure the safety to human health, animal health and the environment.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Authority may by regulations specify measures to regulate,—

(a) the importation of organisms and products specified under Parts I, II and III of Schedule I;

(b) the transport of organisms and products specified under Parts I, II and III of Schedule I;

(c) the containment of organisms and products specified under Parts I, II and III of Schedule I;

(4) the research including field trials of organisms specified under Part I and III of Schedule I;

(e) the research including clinical trials of organisms and products specified under Part II of Schedule I;

(f) the manufacture, sale and distribution of organisms and products specified under Part II of Schedule I;

(g) the environmental release of organisms and products specified under Part I, II and III of Schedule I;

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(h) the procedures and standards to be followed by the laboratories or research institutions notified under section 40 or by other laboratories or research institutions for undertaking research on organisms and products specified under Parts 1, II and III of Schedule I;

(i) all processes and other new products of modern biotechnology;

(j) the amounts of fees and other charges to be levied under this Act;
and

(k) any other measures necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the purposes of this Act.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-sections (f) and (j), the Authority shall,—

(a) provide scientific advice and technical support to the Central Government and State Governments in matters of framing the policy and rules in areas which have a direct or indirect bearing on the safety of products and processes regulated under this Act;

(b) provide technical support to the agencies in India which deal with international activities related to establishing and implementing policies which have impact on the regulation of modern biotechnology;

(c) monitor, review and analyse national and international policies which may affect priorities in relation to the modern biotechnology sector;

(d) develop and implement guidelines for safety assessment methodologies for products and processes regulated under this Act;

(e) monitor and forward information relating to the safety of modern biotechnology products and processes regulated under this Act to the Central Government and State Governments.

(f) provide scientific and technical advice and assistance to the Central Government and State Governments regarding risk management procedures with regard to the safety of modern biotechnology products and processes regulated under this Act;

(g) establish a network of organisations to facilitate scientific co-operation, the exchange of information, the development and implementation of projects, the exchange of expertise and best practices followed in areas relating to modern biotechnology under this Act;

(h) ensure that the process and criteria for safety assessment and decision making in relation to modern biotechnology become accessible and understandable;

(i) inform the public of all applications for field trials and clinical trials and regulatory decisions made by the Authority;

(j) organise workshops, conferences and such other programmes to inform the public about the mandate, programmes and policies of the Authority;

(k) commit to a process of continual quality improvement and

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

professional development in all programmes, policies and activities of the Authority to ensure that the scientific and management capacity within the Authority remain upto date and consistent with best practices adopted internationally;

(l) provide training opportunities to state-level personnel and other stakeholders, who are entrusted with responsibilities related to the regulation of organisms and products of modern biotechnology;

(m) serve as the nodal agency for co-ordination for work on standards and guidance related to regulation of organisms and products of modern biotechnology, with the international, governmental and non-governmental organisations;

(n) promote consistency between international technical standards and technical standards in India related to regulation of organisms and products of modern biotechnology while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in India is not reduced;

(o) discharge in case, it considers so necessary, any other functions in relation to organisms, products and processes of modern biotechnology.

Powers of Authority to call for information, conduct investigations, etc.

19. (l) Where the Authority considers it expedient so to do, it may, by order in writing,—

(a) call upon any person, who had submitted application under sub-section (1) of section 24 or under sub-section(l) of section 26 or who has been granted authorisation under sub-section(l) of section 24, or under sub-section (1) of section 26, or from any person engaged in activities relating to modern bio technology, at any time to furnish in writing such information or explanation relating to its affairs as the Authority may require; or

(b) appoint one or more persons to make an inquiry in relation to the affairs of any person referred to in clause (a); and

(c) direct any of its officers or employees to inspect the books of account or other documents of any person referred to in clause (a).

(2) Where any inquiry in relation to the affairs of any person referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) has been undertaken under that sub-section,—

(a) every director, manager, Secretary or other officer, if such person referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) is a company; or

(b) every partner, manager, Secretary or other officer, if such person referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) is a firm; or

(c) every other person or body of persons who has had dealings in the course of business with any of the persons mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1),

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2D03
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

shall be bound to produce before the Authority making the inquiry, all such books of account or other documents in his custody or power relating to, or having a bearing on the subject-matter of such inquiry and also to furnish to the Authority with any such statement or information relating thereto, as the case may be, required of him within such time as may be specified.

(3) Every person referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) shall maintain such books of account or other documents as may be prescribed.

Power of Authority to issue directions.

20. The Authority shall have the power to issue such directions to any person referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19 as it may consider necessary for safety of products or processes of modern biotechnology or which may be necessary for discharge of its functions or exercise of its powers under this Act.

Chapter v
Divisions, UNITS AND Product rulings Committee of Authority

Regulatory Divisions of Authority.

2L (l) The Authority shall have at least three Regulatory Divisions, namely:—

(l) a division, dealing with agriculture, forests and fisheries, and, responsible for regulating in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and rules and regulations made thereunder the organisms and products as specified in Part I of Schedule I;

(//) a division dealing with human health and veterinary and responsible for regulating in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and rules and regulations made thereunder the organisms and products as specified in Part II of Schedule I; and

(Hi) a division dealing with industrial and environmental applications and responsible for regulating in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and rules and regulations made thereunder the organisms and products as specified in Part III of Schedule I.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions in sub-section (l), the Authority may establish such other divisions as may be necessary, from time to time, to discharge its functions under the Act.

(5) Each division of the Authority, referred to in sub-sections (7) and (2), shall be headed by a Chief Regulatory Officer, who shall be a scientist of outstanding scientific calibre with a doctorate degree in life sciences or post graduate degree in Medicine or equivalent degree from a university recognised by the University Grants Commission or under any law for the time being in force, in a scientific discipline relevant to the Division and has not less than fifteen years experience in relevant discipline and other qualifications as may be specified by the regulations.

(4) The duties and functions of the Chief Regulatory Officer shall be such as may be specified by the regulations.

(5) Every Chief Regulatory Officer shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe to an oath of office and of secrecy in such form and in such manner and before such authority as may be prescribed.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(6) Every Chief Regulatory Officer shall be appointed on whole time basis and not take up any employment, business or profession while acting as such and not communicate or reveal to any person or persons any matter which has been brought under his consideration or known to him while acting as such.

(7) Any Chief Regulatory Officer, ceasing to hold office, in the Authority, shall not—

(a) act for, or on behalf of, any person or organisation in connection with any specific proceeding, transaction, negotiation or case to which the Authority is a party and with respect to which such Chief Regulatory Officer had acted for, or provided advice to, the Authority;

(b) render advice to his client, business associate or employer using information which was obtained in his capacity as a Chief Regulatory Officer and the same is not available to the public.

(c) for a period of two years from his last day in office, enter into a contract of service with, accept an appointment to a board of directors of, or accept an offer of employment with, an entity with which he had direct and significant official dealings during his term of office without the prior approval of the Authority.

(8) Each regulatory division shall maintain a roster of qualified scientific experts in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.

22. The Authority shall constitute a Risk Assessment Unit comprising of scientific officers possessing such qualifications, as may be specified by regulations, and to undertake science-based safety assessments in such manner as may be specified by the regulations. Risk Assessment Unit.

23. (1) The Authority shall constitute an Enforcement Unit consisting of Monitoring Officers among others appointed under sub-section (1) of section 37, for enforcing the decisions of the Authority in such manner as may be specified by the regulations. Other Units.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-section (1), the Authority may establish such other units, as may be necessary from time to time, to discharge its functions.

24. (1) Every person shall obtain authorisation under sub-section (5), for the purpose of the research, transport or import of organisms and products as specified in Parts I, II and III of Schedule I, and submit for the said purpose an application to the Authority, in such form and manner, along with such fee and accompanied by such documents and information as may be specified by the regulations. Procedure by Risk Assessment Unit for research, transport or import of organisms or products.

(2) On receipt of the application under sub-section (1) for the purpose of the research, transport or import of organisms and products as specified in Parts I, II and III of Schedule I, the Authority shall forward the application to the Risk Assessment Unit which shall undertake a science-based evaluation of the application and submit a clear assessment as to the safety of the proposed research, transport or import of such organisms or products to the Authority.

BT/TC/KBRA/Oj/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(3) The Authority shall, on receipt of the clear assessment under sub-section (1), as to the safety of research, transport or import of organisms and products, referred to in sub-section (1) consider all other relevant matters, in addition to the assessment submitted to it. and-

(a) if it is of the opinion that the proposed research, transport or import of such organism or product referred to in sub-section (1) is safe, it may, in writing, authorise, with or without conditions, such research, transport or import of organisms and products, as the case may be;

(b) if it is of the opinion that the proposed research, transport or import of organism and product is not safe to human health, animal health or the environment, it may, in writing, refuse to grant authorisation for the research, transport or import, as the case may be;

(c) if the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant may not comply with the conditions which may be imposed under clause (a) in respect of the authorisation for the research, transport or import referred to in sub-section (1), it may in writing refuse to grant authorisation for the research, transport or import, as the case may be.

(4) Where the Authority refuses to grant authorisation referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (3), it shall record the reasons for such refusal and shall furnish a copy thereof to the applicant.

(5) The decisions of the Authority taken under sub-section (3) shall be communicated in writing to the applicant and be made available to public, within ten working days of the decision being taken by it.

Product Rulings
Committee.

25. (f) The Authority shall constitute a Product Rulings Committee in such manner, as may be specified by the regulations, for the purpose of making recommendations to the Authority for manufacture or use of organisms and products specified under Part I, Part II and Part III of Schedule I.

(2) The Product Rulings Committee referred to in sub-section (1) shall consist of—

(a) one of the Members of the Authority to be nominated by the Chairperson— Presiding Officer;

(b) all the Chief Regulatory Officers of their Regulatory Divisions — ex-officio members;

(c) at least three and not exceeding five members, whose names appear as qualified scientific experts in the roster of experts maintained under sub-section (8) of section 21, to be appointed by the Authority — members.

(3) The Chief Regulatory Officer dealing with the organisms and products specified under Part I, Part II and Part III of Schedule I shall be the convenor of the Product Rulings Committee constituted for making recommendations for the manufacture or use of the same organisms or products dealt by the said Chief Regulatory Officer.

(4) The fee and allowances payable to the qualified scientific experts in

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2G08
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

the roster of experts maintained under sub-section (8) of section 21, shall be such as may be specified by the regulations.

(5) The Product Rulings Committee shall meet at least once in every three weeks or within such period as may be decided by the Authority.

(6) The Product Rulings Committee shall observe such procedures in regard to the transaction of business at their meetings, including the quorum, as may be specified by the regulations.

Procedure for grant of authorisation for manufacture or use of organism and products.

26. (1) Every person shall obtain authorisation under clause (a) of sub-section (4), for the purpose of manufacture or use, of organism and product specified in Parts I, II and III of Schedule I, and submit for the said purpose an application in the form and manner, along with such fee and accompanied by such documents and information as may be specified by the regulations.

(2) On receipt of the application under sub-section (1) for the manufacture or use of organisms and products specified under Parts I, II and III of Schedule I, the Authority shall forward the application to the Risk Assessment Unit which shall undertake a science-based evaluation of the application and submit its risk assessment report as to the safety of the proposed manufacture and use of organism or product to the Authority.

(3) The Authority, on receipt of the risk assessment report under sub-section (2), as to the safety for manufacture or use of organism and products, shall forward the risk assessment report of the the Risk Assessment Unit to the Product Rulings Committee for giving its recommendations thereon, as to the safety of organism and products.

(4) The Authority, on receipt of the recommendations under sub-section (3), as to the safety for manufacture or use of organisms and products, shall consider all other relevant matters, in addition to the risk assessment report submitted to it by the the Risk Assessment Unit and—

(a) if it is of the opinion that the proposed manufacture or use of organisms and products is safe it may, in writing authorise, with or without conditions, such manufacture or use of organisms and products, as the case may be;

(b) if it is of the opinion that the proposed manufacture or use of organisms and products is not safe to human health, animal health or the environment, it may, in writing refuse to grant authorisation for the manufacture or use of organisms and products, as the case may be;

(c) if the Authority has reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not comply with the conditions which may be imposed under clause(a) in respect of the authorisation, it may in writing refuse to grant authorisation for the manufacture or use of organisms and products, as the case may be.

(5) Where the Authority refuses to grant authorisation referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (4), it shall record the reasons for such decision and furnish a copy thereof to the applicant.

(6) The decisions of the Authority taken under clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c) of sub-section (4) shall be communicated in writing to the applicant

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2DD8
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

and be made available to the public within ten working days of the decision being taken by it.

22 of 2005. 27. (1) In case an application to be submitted under sub-section (1) of section 24 or sub-section (1) of section 26 require the disclosure of confidential commercial information, such information shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Right to Information Act, 2005, be retained as confidential by the Authority and not be disclosed to any other part;/.
Disclosure of confidential commercial information.

(2) If the Authority is satisfied that the public interest outweighs the disclosure of confidential commercial information or such disclosure shall not cause harm to any person, it may refuse to retain that the information as confidential commercial information.

3. The Authority may constitute one or more Scientific Advisory Panels, from the roster of experts referred to in sub-section (8) of section 21 in such manner as may be specified by the regulations, to provide scientific advice, information and recommendations to the Authority under this Act on biotechnology issues which may, result from regulatory actions of the Authority, and, would have an impact on the safety of human health, animal health and the environment.
Scientific Advisory Panels and Roster of Experts.

29. The Authority may, for the purpose of obtaining scientific advice and technical support on any issue relating to modern biotechnology, without prejudice to the other provisions of this Act, may seek advice from any member of Scientific Advisory Panel referred to in section 28 in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.
Seeking advice from Scientific Advisory Panels and Roster of Experts.

30. All orders and decisions of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairperson or any other officer of the Authority so authorised by the Chairperson,
Authentication of decisions or order etc.

Delegation. 31. The Authority may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to the Chairperson or any member or any officer of the Authority subject to such conditions or limitations, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions (except the power to make regulations under section 83 under this Act) as it may consider necessary.

CHAPTER VI

PROVISIONS RELATING TO IMPORT OF ORGANISMS AND PRODUCTS AS SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 1

Application of law relating to customs and powers of Customs officers 32. (1) The law for the time being in force relating to the customs and goods, the import of which is prohibited under the Customs Act, 1962 or any other law for the time being in force shall, subject to the provisions of section 26 of this Act, apply in respect of organisms and products specified under Part I, Part II and Part III of Schedule I, the import of which requires the authorisation by the Authority under Chapter V, and officers of Customs and officers empowered under the Customs Act, 1962 or any other law for the time being in force, to perform the duties imposed thereby on a Commissioner of Customs and other officers of Customs, shall have the same powers in respect of such organisms and products as they have for the time being in respect of such goods as aforesaid.
52 of 1962

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1) the Commissioner of Customs or any officer of the Government authorised by the Central Government in this behalf, may detain any imported package

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

which he suspects to contain any organisms or products specified under Part I, Part II and Part III of Schedule 1 and the import of which requires the approval of the Authority under Chapter V, and shall forthwith report such detention to the Authority, and, if necessary, forward, with the approval of the Authority, the package or sample of any suspected organisms and products found therein to the laboratory notified or research institution accredited under this Act.

Chapter VII

Clinical Trial or Field Trials

Clinical trials or field trials.

33. No person shall conduct, clinical trials in respect of any organisms or products specified in Part II of Schedule I, or, field trials in respect of any organisms or products specified in Part I and Part III of Schedule 1:

Provided that the Authority may having regard to the health care needs or development of agriculture sector, permit clinical trial of organisms and products specified in Part II of Schedule I, or field trials in respect to any organism or products specified in Part I and Part III of Schedule I with such safeguards as it may consider necessary and which may be specified by the regulations.

CHAPTER VIII

State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee

State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committees.

34. (1) Every State Government shall, for the purposes of discharging its functions under sub-section (6), constitute a committee to be called as the "(Name of the State) Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee".

(2) Every State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee shall consist of,—

(a) a representative not below the rank of Director from each of the Ministry or Departments dealing with health;

(b) a representative not below the rank of Director from each of the Ministry or Departments dealing with environment;

(c) a representative not below the rank of Director from each of the Ministry or Departments dealing with agriculture;

(d) a representative not below the rank of Director to the Government of India from the Ministry or Department dealing with Industry;

(e) two members, having technical expertise in healthcare and allied fields, agriculture and allied fields or environmental or industrial sciences and allied fields, to be nominated by the Authority;

(f) two other members, having adequate knowledge of, and experience in, the field of biotechnology to be nominated by the Secretary or Commissioner or head referred to in sub-section (3), as the case may be, who presides over the State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committees referred to in that sub-section.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Bio technology

(3) Every State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee shall be convened by the Secretary or head or Commissioner State Department of Biotechnology or Biotechnology Commission, as the case may be, where no State Department of Biotechnology or Biotechnology Commission exists by the Secretary or head of or the State Department of Science and Technology.

(4) The Secretary or head or Commissioner referred to in sub-section (3) shall preside over the meetings of the State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee.

(i) The State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee shall observe such procedures in regard to transaction of business at its meetings (including the quorum and the intervals at which meeting may be held) and pay such fee and allowances to its members as may be specified by the State Government.

(6) The functions of a State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee shall be to,—

(a) act as the nodal agency for interactions between the State Government and the Authority in respect of matters related to the regulation of modern biotechnology under this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder;

(b) facilitate inter-departmental coordination within the State for regulation of modern biotechnology;

(c) identify state-specific needs related to the regulation of modern biotechnology and apprise the same to the Authority;

(d) collaborate with the Authority for undertaking capacity building and information sharing activities relating to biotechnology within the State;

(e) ensure that information relating to activities and programmes of the Authority are made available to the public in a transparent and accessible manner within the State.

(7) The Authority shall provide technical or financial assistance or such other assistance as it may consider necessary, for the establishment of State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee and discharge of its functions, in such manner as may be prescribed.

(8) Every State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee shall prepare and publish an annual report and make the same available to the State Government, the Authority and the public.

35. The Chairperson of the Authority shall convene an annual meeting of State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committees of all the States, in such manner as may be specified by the regulations, with a view to identify priority issues and activities which the State Governments may include in their programmes and operations related to the regulation of modern biotechnology.

Convening of meetings of State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committees.

BT/TC/NBRA/G3/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

CHAPTER IX
Enforcement of Provisions of Act

Authority responsible for enforcement of Act.

36. The Authority shall be responsible for enforcement of the provisions of this Act and regulations made thereunder.

Monitoring Officers.

37. (7) The Authority may, by notification, appoint such number of persons, including the officers of the Authority, any State Governments or any other Authority, as Monitoring Officers in its Enforcement Unit referred to in sub-section (1) of section 23, as it may deem it, for the purpose of exercising powers or performing functions under this Act.

(2) The persons appointed as Monitoring Officers, under sub-section (1), shall possess such qualifications and experience relating to biotechnology as may be specified by the regulations,

(5) The Authority shall establish such mechanisms, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committees or any other authority, as may be considered necessary to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act and of the rules and regulations made thereunder.

Functions of Monitoring Officers.

38. (1) Every Monitoring Officer shall undertake such activities, as may be directed by the Authority, to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder and such activities include-

(a) enforcement of the regulations made under sub-section (2) of section 18 under this Act; and

(b) enforcement of compliance of refusal of authorisation under clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 26.

(2) In exercising the powers or performing the functions as a Monitoring Officer, the Monitoring Officer shall comply with such directions of the Authority, as it may issue to such Monitoring Officers.

Powers of Monitoring Officers

39. (1) The Monitoring Officer may, for the purpose of discharging his functions under this Act, and if so authorised by the Authority, -

(a) enter and inspect any premises where products and processes for manufacture or use regulated under this Act may be found;

(b) inspect, examine, take measurements of, or conduct tests on, or take samples of, any thing on the premises which relates to products and processes regulated under this Act;

(c) take photographs, make video or audio recordings of the premises or any thing on the premises on which products and processes regulated under this Act have been found;

(d) inspect any book, record or document on the premises referred to in clause (a);

(e) take to the premises referred to in clause (a), such equipment and materials as the Monitoring Officer may require for the purpose of exercising his powers and discharging his functions in relation to products

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

or processes regulated under this Act,

(2) The Monitoring Officer shall, in exercising the powers of entry upon, and inspection of any place under this section, follow, as far as may be; the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 relating to the search or inspection of a place by a police officer executing a search warrant under that Code.

2 of 1974

(3) A Monitoring Officer shall not enter any premises except with the consent of the occupant of the premises or under the authority of a warrant

Explanation.— For the purpose of sub-section (3) "warrant" means a warrant issued by the Judicial Magistrate or the Metropolitan Magistrate, as the case may be, within whose jurisdiction the place, where the warrant is to be executed, is situated.

Chapter x'

'Notification of Laboratories

40. The Authority may, notify, for the purposes of this Act, such laboratories or research institutions which have been accredited by such agencies as may be specified by the regulations:

Notification of accredited laboratories and research institutions

Provided that the Authority may, if it considers so necessary, having regard to emerging nature of modern biotechnology and facilities and equipment available in laboratories, (other than accredited laboratories) may, notify for the purposes of this Act, such laboratories or research institutions which had not been accredited by such agencies, as laboratories or research institutions for the purposes of this Act.

41. (I) The Authority may designate one or more organisations or agencies as auditor for the purpose of auditing notified laboratories and research institutions to ensure compliance with activities, relating to safety of modern biotechnology, as may be specified by the regulations.

Designation of certain organisation or agency as auditor. 01

(2) An organisation or agency shall not be qualified for designation as auditor under sub-section (1), unless such organisation or agency fulfills such criteria as may be specified by the regulations.

(J) Every person authorised by an organisation or agency referred to in sub-section (7) shall, for the purpose of auditing laboratories and research institutions notified under section 40, have a right on all working days to access such notified laboratories and research institutions in respect of which such organisation or agency had been designated as an auditor and be entitled to require from the officers of such notified laboratories and research institutions, such information or document as the auditor may consider necessary for the performance of his duties as an auditor.

(4) The auditor referred to in sub-section (1) shall, within such time as may be specified by the Authority, make a report in writing to the Authority, including therein the specific areas or issues or standards or procedures, directed by it to be audited, as may be specified by it in this regard.

CHAPTER XI

BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Appeal
Appellate

to

42. (I) Any person aggrieved by a decision or order or directions of the Authority under this Act, may, within a period of thirty days from the date on

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Tribunal

which the decision or order or direction is communicated to him, file an appeal to the Biotechnology Regulatory Appellate Tribunal.

(2) Every such appeal shall be preferred in such form and manner along with such fees and contain such particulars as may be prescribed.

43. The Central Government shall, by notification, establish with effect from such date as may be specified therein, an Appellate Tribunal to be known as the Biotechnology Regulatory Appellate Tribunal to exercise the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on such Tribunal by or under this Act.

Establishment of Appellate Tribunal.

44. (1) The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of

Composition of Appellate Tribunal

(a) a full time Chairperson;

(b) part-time expert Members not exceeding five, as the Central Government may notify.

(2) The Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may, if considered necessary, direct any one or more person having specialised knowledge and experience in a particular case before the Appellate Tribunal to assist the Appellate Tribunal in that case.

(3) The Appellate Tribunal shall sit at such place or places, as the Central Government may, by notification, specify.

(4) The Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, make rules regulating generally the practices and procedure of the Appellate Tribunal including-

(a) rules as to the persons who would be entitled to appear before the Appellate Tribunal;

(b) rules as to the procedure for hearing appeals and other matters pertaining to the appeals;

(c) the minimum number of members who would hear the applications and appeals in respect of any class or classes of appeals.

45- (1) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal unless he is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or the Chief Justice of a High Court.

Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and part time expert Members.

(2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as part time expert Member, unless he is a person who is an eminent scientist in the field of life sciences or biotechnology related to healthcare or agriculture or environmental or industrial science and possesses an experience of at least twenty years in the field, or who has held the post in the Central Government or a State Government dealing with life sciences or biotechnology related to healthcare or agriculture or environmental or industrial biotechnology equivalent to the Joint Secretary to the Government of India for at least three years and possesses special knowledge in the field;

(3) The Chairperson and part time expert Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall not hold any other office during their tenure as such.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
■ Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

46. (7) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3), the Chairperson and part time expert Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed by the Central Government.

Appointmem of
Chairperson and part
time expert
Members.

(2) The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

(5) The part time expert Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed on the recommendations of such Selection Committee and in such manner as may be prescribed,

Term of office
and other
conditions of
service of
Chairperson and
part time expert
Member.

47. The Chairperson and part time expert Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall hold office as such for a term of three years from the date on which they enter upon their office, but shall not be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that no Chairperson shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of seventy years:

Provided further that no part time expert Member shall hold office after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

Resignation.

48. The Chairperson or part time expert Member of the Appellate Tribunal may, by notice in writing under their hand addressed to the Central Government, resign from their office.

Salaries,
allowances and
other terms and
conditions of
service.

4.9. The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service (including pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits) of, the Chairperson and allowances and fee payable to part time expert Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed:

Provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson shall be varied to their disadvantage after their appointment.

Restriction on
Chairperson or
Members on
employment after
cessation of
office.

50. (1) The Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal ceasing to hold office as such, shall not —

(a) for a period of one year from the date on which they cease to hold office, accept any employment in, or connected with the management or administration of, any person which has been a party to a proceeding before the Appellate Tribunal under this Act:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to any employment under the Central Government or a State Government or local authority or in any statutory authority or any corporation established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) act, for or on behalf of any person or organisation in connection with any specific proceeding, transaction, negotiation or a case to which the Authority is a party and with respect to which the Chairperson or

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

such Member before cessation of his office had acted for, or provided advice to, the Authority;

(c) give advice to any person (including his client, business associate or employer) using information which was obtained in his capacity as the Chairperson or a Member and being not available or cannot be made available to the public.

(d) for a period of two years from his last day in office, enter into a contract of service with, accept an appointment to a board of directors of, or accept an offer of employment with, an entity with which he had direct and significant official dealings during his term of office as such without the due approval of the Central Government.

Removal and suspension of Chairperson and part time expert Member.

51. (1) The Central Government may, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, remove from office of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, who,—

(a) has been adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) has become physically or mentally incapable; or

(d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions; or

(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

(2) The Chairperson shall not be removed from his office except by an order made by the Central Government, after an inquiry made by a Judge of the Supreme Court in which such Chairperson been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

(3) The Central Government may suspend from office the Chairperson in respect of whom a reference of conducting an inquiry has been made to the Judge of the Supreme Court under sub-section (2), until the Central Government passes an order on receipt of the report of inquiry made by the Judge of the Supreme Court on such reference.

(4) The Central Government may, by rules, regulate the procedure for inquiry referred to in sub-section (2).

(5) The part time expert Member may be removed from his office by an order of the Central Government on the grounds specified in sub-section (1):

Provided that the part time expert Member shall not be removed unless he has been given an opportunity of being heard in the matter.

52. In the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, such part time expert Member of the Appellate Tribunal, as the Central Government may, by notification, authorise in this behalf, shall act as the Chairperson until the date on which a new Chairperson is appointed in

To act as Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal or to discharge his functions in certain circumstances.

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

accordance with the revisions of this Act.

53, (f) The Central Government shall determine the nature and categories of the officers and other employees required to assist the Appellate Tribunal in the discharge of its functions.

Staff of Appellate Tribunal.

(2) The recruitment of the officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be made by the Chairperson in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) The officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal.

(4) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.

§4. The Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal shall exercise such financial and administrative powers as may be vested in him under the rules made by the Central Government:

Financial and administrative powers of Chairperson.

Provided that the Chairperson shall have the authority to delegate such of his financial and administrative powers, as he may think fit, to any part time expert Member or officer of the Appellate Tribunal subject to the condition that the Member or such officer, while exercising such delegated power, continues to act under the direction, control and supervision of the Chairperson,

Jurisdiction, powers and authority* of the Appellate Tribunal

55, (f) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to modern biotechnology is involved and such question arises out of the implementation of the products and processes specified under Part I or Part II or Part III of Schedule I and hear appeals from the decisions or orders of the Authority.

Appellate Tribunal to Settle disputes

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall hear the appeals referred to in sub-section (7) and dispose of such appeals and pass order thereon.

(3) No application for deciding substantial question relating to modern biotechnology under this section shall be entertained by the Appellate Tribunal unless it is made within a period of two years from the date on which the cause of action for such question first arose:

Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may, if it is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the application within the said period, allow it to be filed within a further period not exceeding sixty days.

(4) The application, or as the case may be, the appeal filed before the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (f) or sub-section (3) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose of the application, or, as the case may be, the appeal, finally within six months from the date of filing of the application, or as the case may be, after providing the parties concerned an opportunity to be heard.

Procedure and powers of

56. (7) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by the

5 of 1908.

BT/TC7NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Appellate
Tribunal.

principles of natural justice.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Appellate Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

(3) The Appellate Tribunal shall also not be bound by the rules of evidence contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

1 of 1872.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:—

5 of 1908

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of documents;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, requisitioning any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office;

1 of 1872

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) reviewing its decision;

(g) dismissing an application for default or deciding it ex parte;

(h) setting aside any order of dismissal of any application for default or any order passed by it ex parte;

(i) pass an interim order (including granting an injunction or stay) after providing the parties concerned an opportunity of being heard, on any application made or appeal filed under this Act;

(j) pass an order requiring any person to cease and desist from committing or causing any violation of any enactment specified in Schedule I;

(k) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(5) All proceedings before the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193, 219 and 228 for the purposes of section 196 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of sections 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

1 of 1860.

2 of 1974.

Decision to
taken
Majority.

be by 57, The decision of the Appellate Tribunal by majority of members shall be binding.

Cost.

58, (a) While disposing of an application or an appeal under this Act, the Appellate Tribunal shall have power to make such order as to costs as it may consider necessary.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Execution of award or order of Appellate Tribunal.

59. An award or order or decision of the Appellate Tribunal under this Act shall be executable by the Appellate Tribunal as a decree of a civil court, and for this purpose, the Appellate Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court.

Appeal to Supreme Court.

60. (7) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or in any other law, an appeal shall lie against any order, (not being an interlocutory order) of the Appellate Tribunal to the Supreme Court on one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of that Code.

5 of 1903

(2) No appeal shall lie against any decision or order made by the Appellate Tribunal with the consent of the parties.

(3) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of ninety days from the date of the decision or order appealed against;

Provided that the Supreme Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of ninety days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

CHAPTER XIII
OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

61. If a person, in connection with a requirement or direction under this Act, provides any information or produces any document that the person knows is false or misleading, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months and also with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.

Punishment for false information.

62. (1) Whoever, himself or by any other person on his behalf, conducts clinical trials with organisms or products specified in Part II of Schedule 1, in contravention of section 33 shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to ten years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees or with both.

Punishment for conduct of unapproved clinical trial or field trial.

(2) Whoever, having been convicted of an offence under sub-section (1), is again convicted of an offence under that sub-section, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to life imprisonment and with fine which may extend to twenty lakh rupees or with both.

(5) Whoever, himself or by any other person on his behalf, conducts field trials with organisms or products specified in Part I or Part III of Schedule I, in contravention of section 33 shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both.

(4) Whoever, having been convicted of an offence under sub-section (5), is again convicted of an offence under that sub-section, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than two years but which may extend to four years and with fine which may extend to four lakh rupees or with both.

Misleading public organism about and

63. Whoever, without any evidence or scientific record misleads the public about the safety of the organisms and products specified in Part I or

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

products.

Part II or Part III of the Schedule I, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to one year and with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or with both.

Punishment for obstructing or impersonating an officer of Authority.

64. If a person, without reasonable excuse, resists, obstructs, or attempts to obstruct, impersonate, threaten, intimidate or assault an officer of the Authority or any person assigned to discharge any function under this Act, or in exercising his functions under this Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months and also with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees.

Punishment in relation to audit report.

65. If any auditor's report is made, which is false or otherwise than in conformity with the specific areas or issues or standards or procedures directed to be audited by the Authority under sub-section (4) of section 41, the auditor concerned and the person, if any, other than the auditor who signs the report or signs or authenticates the document, shall, if the default is wilful, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with or both.

General provisions relating to offences and fine

66. If any person contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of this Act or of any rules or regulations made thereunder, for which no punishment is provided elsewhere in this Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and also with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees.

Offences by companies.

67. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he has exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation,—For the purposes of this section,

(a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

68. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a society or trust or university, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the society or trust or university for the conduct of the business of the society or trust or university,

Offences by society, trust and university.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

as well as the society or trust or university, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he has exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a society or trust or university and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any governors, vice-chancellor, directors, committee, trustees, registrar or other officer, such governors, vice-chancellor, directors, committee, trustees, registrar or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

69. (7) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of Government, the Head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

Offences by
Government
Departments.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (7), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Department of Government and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any officer, other than the Head of the Department, such officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

70. (f) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, save on a complaint made by the Authority or any officer or person authorised by it.

Cognizance of
offences.

(2) No court inferior to that of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

CHAPTER XIV

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS, AUDITS AND REPORTS

71. (f) The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Authority, grants of such sums of money as the Central Government may think it for being utilised for the purposes of this Act.

Grants by Central
Government.

72. (J) There shall be constituted a Fund to be called the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Fund and there shall be credited thereto—

Biotechnology
Regulatory Authority fund

(a) all grants made to the Authority by the Central Government under section 71;

(b) all fees and charges received by the Authority under this Act; and

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(c) all sums received by the Authority from such other sources as may be decided upon by the Central Government.

(2) The Fund may be applied for meeting for—

(a) the salaries, allowances and other remuneration of the Chairperson, Members, Chief Regulatory Officers, other officers and other employees of the Authority and allowances, if any, payable to the Members of the Authority;

(b) for providing the technical or the financial support to the State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee;

(c) the other expenses of the Authority in connection with the discharge of its functions and for purposes of this Act.

Budget, accounts
and Audit.

73. (7) The Authority shall prepare a budget, maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Authority under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General generally has in connection with the audit of Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers, and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

(4) The accounts of the Authority, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government by the Authority and the Central Government shall cause the audit report to be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

Annual report.

74. (7) The Authority shall prepare once in every year, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed by the Central Government, an annual report giving,-

(a) a description of all the activities of the Authority for the previous year;

(b) the annual accounts for the previous year; and

(c) the programmes of work for the coming year.

(2) A copy of the report received under sub-section (7) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Chapter xv
Miscellaneous

Power of Central Government to issue directions

75, Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Authority shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its Functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on question of policy other than those relating to technical and administrative matters as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time:

Provided that the Authority shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section .

(2) The decision of the Central Government, whether a question is one of policy or not, shall be final.

Power of Central Government to supersede Authority

76. (1) If, at any time the Central Government is of the opinion, —

(a) that, on account of circumstances beyond the control of the Authority, it is unable to discharge the functions or perform the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act; or

(b) that the Authority has persistently defaulted in complying with any direction given by the Central Government under this Act or in the discharge of the functions or performance of the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act and as a result of such default the financial position of the Authority or the administration of the Authority has suffered; or

(c) that circumstances exist which render it necessary in the public interest so to do,

the Central Government may, by notification, supersede the Authority for such period, not exceeding six months, as may be specified in the notification and appoint a person or persons as the President may direct to exercise powers and discharge functions under this Act;

Provided that before issuing any such notification, the Central Government shall give a reasonable opportunity to the Authority to make representations against the proposed supersession and shall consider the representations, if any, of the Authority.

(2) Upon the publication of a notification under sub-section (1) superseding the Authority,—

(a) the Chairperson and other members shall, as from the date of supersession, vacate their offices as such;

(b) all the powers, functions and duties which may, by or under the provisions of this Act, be exercised or discharged by or on behalf of the Authority shall, until the Authority is reconstituted under sub-section (3), be exercised and discharged by the person or persons referred to in sub-section (7); and

(c) all properties owned or controlled by the Authority shall, until the Authority is reconstituted under sub-section (3), vest in the Central Government.

(3) On or before the expiration of the period of supersession

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

specified in the notification issued under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall reconstitute the Authority by a fresh appointment of its Chairperson and other members and in such case any person who had vacated his office under clause (a) of sub-section (2) shall not be deemed to be disqualified for reappointment.

(4) The Central Government shall cause a copy of the notification issued under sub-section (1) and a full report of any action taken under this section and the circumstances leading to such action to be laid before each House of Parliament at the earliest.

77. No civil court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any matter which the Appellate Tribunal is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act. Bar of jurisdiction.

45 of 1860. 78. The Chairperson, Members, Chief Regulatory Officers, other officers and other employees of the Authority shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. Members and staff of Authority to be public servants.

79. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government, the Authority and other bodies constituted under this Act or any officer of the Central Government, or any Member, Chief Regulatory Officers and other officers or other employees of such Authority and bodies or any other officer acting under this Act for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules made thereunder. Protection of action taken in good faith.

23 of 1940.
34 of 2006. 80. Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to the drug, food or food additive or any material or thing which is covered under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Provisions of this Act not to apply to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

81. Save as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law other than this Act. Act to have overriding effect.

82. (7) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Power to make rules

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) powers and functions of the Authority which may be exercised and discharged by the Chairperson under sub-section (1) of section 8;

(b) powers and functions which may be exercised and discharged by the Chairperson as the chief executive of the Authority under sub-section (3) of section 8.

(c) the form and the manner in which, and the authority before

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

whom, the oath of office and of secrecy to be subscribed by the Chairperson and every Member under sub-section (2) of section 9;

(d) the salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and Members under sub-section (4) of section 9;

(e) the salaries, allowances and pensions payable to, and other conditions of service of the Chief Regulatory Officers, other officers and employees of the Authority, under sub-section (2) of section 14;

(f) the other functions of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Board under sub-section (6) of section 15;

(g) the manner in which members of the Biotechnology Advisory Council referred to in clauses (b) to (l) of sub-section (2) of section 16 shall be appointed under sub-section (3) of that section;

(h) the other functions of the Biotechnology Advisory Council to be specified under sub-section (6) of section 16;

(i) the times and places at which the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Board and the Biotechnology Advisory Council to be held and procedures to be observed in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, (including the quorum) under section 17;

(j) the books of account and other documents which the persons referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19 shall maintain under sub-section (3) of that section;

(k) the form and the manner in which and the authority before whom the oath of office and of secrecy to be subscribed by every Chief Regulatory Officer under sub-section (5) of section 21;

(l) the manner in which the Authority shall provide technical or financial assistance or such other assistance as may be necessary, for the establishment of State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee, and, discharge of its functions, under sub-section (7) of section 34;

(m) the form and manner in which, and the fees along with which, the appeal shall be preferred and the particulars which such appeal shall contain, under sub-section (2) of section 42;

(n) the rules regulating generally the practices and procedure of the Appellate Tribunal in respect of matters specified under clauses (a) to (c) of sub-section (4) of section 44;

(o) the manner in which the part time expert Members of the Appellate Tribunal on the recommendations of the Selection Committee shall be appointed under sub-section (3) of section 46;

(p) the salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service (including pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits) of, the Chairperson and allowance and fee payable to part time expert Member of the Appellate Tribunal under section 49;

(q) the procedure for inquiry, for removal of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, under sub-section (4) of section 51;

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(r) the manner in which the recruitment of the officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be made under sub-section (2) of section 53;

(s) the salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (4) of section 53;

(t) the financial and administrative powers of the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal as may be vested in him under section 54;

(u) such other matters in respect of which the Appellate Tribunal shall have power, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, under clause (k) of sub-section (4) of section 56;

(v) the form in which the Authority shall prepare a budget, maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts under sub-section (1) of section 73;

(w) the form in which and time at which the Authority shall prepare an annual report under sub-section (1) of section 74;

(x) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, specified by rules or in respect of which provision is to be made by rules.

Power to make regulations. 83, (l) The Authority may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the Rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the times and places of meetings of the Authority and the rules of procedure to be observed by the Authority in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including quorum at such meeting) under sub-section (7) of section 12;

(b) measures to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products referred to in clauses (a) to (k) of sub-section (2) of section 18;

(c) the other qualifications of the Chief Regulatory Officer under sub-section (3) of section 21;

(d) the duties and functions of the Chief Regulatory Officer under sub-section (4) of section 21;

(e) the manner of maintenance of roster of qualified scientific experts in each regulatory division under sub-section (8) of section 21;

(f) the qualifications of the scientific officers of the Risk Assessment Unit and the manner of undertaking science based safety assessment under section 22;

(g) the manner of constitution of Enforcement Unit for enforcing the decision of the Authority under sub-section (l) of section 23;

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

(h) the form -and manner for submission of application for the purpose of obtaining authorization for research, transport or import of organisms and products, the fee payable therewith and the documents and information to be accompanied with such applications under sub-section (1) of section 24;

(i) the manner of constitution of a Product Rulings Committee under sub-section (1) of section 25;

(j) the fee and allowances payable to the qualified scientific experts in the roster of experts under sub-section (4) of section 25;

(k) the procedure to be observed by the Product Rulings Committee in regard to transaction of business at the meetings, including the quorum, under sub-section (6) of section 25;

(l) the form and manner for submission of application for the purpose of obtaining authorisation for the manufacture or use of organisms and products, the fee payable therewith and the documents and information to be accompanied with such applications under sub-section (1) of section 6;

(m) the manner of constitution of one or more Scientific Advisory Panels under section 28;

(n) the manner of seeking advise from any Member of Scientific Advisory Panel from the roster of experts under section 29;

(o) the safeguards subject to which the Authority may permit clinical trials or field trials of organisms and products under the proviso to section 33;

(p) the manner of convening by the Chairperson of the Authority, the annual meeting of a State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee under section 35;

(q) the qualifications and experience of Mentoring Officers under sub-section (2) of section 37;

(r) the agencies which may accredit the laboratories or research institutions under section 40;

(s) the organizations or the agencies to be designated by the Authority, and the activities relating to safety of modern biotechnology, the compliance of, which shall be ensured for the purposes of auditing notified laboratories or research institutions under sub-section (1) of section 41;

(t) the criteria which an organization or agency shall fulfill, to be designated as auditor, under sub-section (2) of section 41;

(u) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, specified by regulations or in respect of which provision is to be made by regulations.

84. The Central Government, after consultation with the Authority and Power to amend after giving, by notification in the Official Gazette, not less than three months notice Schedule I notice of its intention to do so, may, by like notification, add to or otherwise

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

amend the Schedule 1 of this Act for the purposes of the Act and thereupon the said Schedule shall be deemed to be amended accordingly.

85. Every rule and every regulation made under this Act and every notification issued under section 84, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or notification or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation or notification should not be made, the rule or regulation or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation or notification.

Rules to be laid
before Parliament

23 of 1940.

34 of 2006.

86. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and, nothing in this Act shall affect any jurisdiction, powers and functions required to be exercised or performed by the Authority in relation to any area falling within the jurisdiction of the Authority under this Act.

Application of certain
laws

87. (1) The enactments specified in Parts I and II of the Schedule II to this Act shall be amended in the manner specified therein and such amendments shall take effect from such date as the Central Government may by notification, specify and that such amendments shall not affect -

Amendment of
certain enactments
and Savings.

(a) the previous operations of the enactment under repeal or anything duly done or suffered there under; or

(b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under any of the enactment orders; or

(c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offences committed against the enactment; or

(d) any investigation or remedy in respect of any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment, and any such investigation, legal proceedings or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if this Act had not been passed.

(2) If there is any other law for the time being in force in any State corresponding to this Act, the same shall upon the commencement of this Act, stand repealed and in such case, the provisions of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 shall apply as if such provisions of the State law had been repealed.

10 of 1897.

(5) Notwithstanding the repeal of enactment specified under sub-section (2), the licenses issued under any such enactment or order, which are in force on the date of commencement of this Act, shall continue to be in force till the date of their expiry for all purposes, as if they had been issued under the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under.

BT/TC/NimA/03/2003
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

Power to remove
difficulties.

88. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

SCHEDULE I

(See section 18)

PART I

1. Organisms and products mentioned under sub-paragraph (a) to (c) of this Part which shall be regulated by the Authority.

(a) Any genetically engineered plant, animal, micro-organism, virus or other animate organism that may have application in agriculture, fisheries (including aquaculture), forestry or food production;

(b) Any genetically engineered plant, animal, micro-organism, virus or other animate organism used as food;

(c) Any animal clones that may have application in agriculture, fisheries or food production.

PART II

2. Organisms and products mentioned under (a) to (i) of this Part which shall be regulated by the Authority.

(a) DNA vaccines intended to induce or increase an antigen specific immune response for prophylactic or therapeutic immunization, regardless of the composition or method of manufacture;

(b) Vaccines for use in humans or animals that contain living genetically engineered organisms;

(c) Cellular products, including products composed of human, bacterial or animal cells (such as pancreatic islet cells for transplantation), or from physical parts of those cells (such as whole cells, cell fragments, or other components intended for use as preventative or therapeutic vaccines);

(d) Recombinant gene therapy products including nucleic acids, viruses, or genetically engineered micro-organisms that mediate their effect by transcription and/or translation of the transferred genetic material, and/or by integrating into the host genome. Cells may be modified in these ways ex vivo for subsequent administration to the recipient, or altered in vivo by gene therapy products administered directly to the recipient.

(e) Transgenic blood or plasma derived products.

(f) Stem cell based products.

(g) RNA interference (RNAi) based products.

(h) Products of synthetic biology for human or animal use.

(i) Any products that include as a component a product from categories (a) to (h) above.

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

PART III

3. Organisms and products mentioned under this Part which shall be regulated by the Authority.

Any genetically engineered plant, animal, micro-organism, virus or other animate organism that may be released into the environment, excluding the provisions of Parts I and II of this Schedule, or have application in industrial production or manufacturing processes.

BT/TC/NBRA/03/2008
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology

SCHEDULE II
(See section 87)

PART I
AMENDMENTS TO THE DRUGS AND COSMETICS ACT, 1940
(23 of 1940)

Amendment of section 3.

1. In section 3, in clause (b) for sub-clause (z'v), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(iv) such devices intended for internal or external use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings or animals, as may be specified from time to time by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, after consultation with the Board, but does not include the organism and products specified in Parts I, II and III of the Schedule II to the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2009."

Insertion of new section 37A.

2. After section 37, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Provisions of this Act not to apply to genetically modified or engineered organisms.

"37A. Nothing contained in this section shall apply to the genetically modified or engineered organisms or any matter or thing connected with it to which are covered under the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2009."

PART II
AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
ACT, 2006
(34 of 2006)

Amendment of section 13.

1. In section 13, in sub-section (3), in clause (c), the words "organisms and" shall be omitted.

Amendment of section 22.

2. In section 22, in the Explanation, for clause (2), the following clause shall be substituted, namely: —

"(2) Genetically, engineered or modified food", means,

(a) in relation to the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, food and food ingredients produced from but not containing genetically modified or engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology;

(b) in relation to the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2009, the food and food ingredients composed of or containing genetically modified or engineered organisms obtained through modern biotechnology.*.

Insertion of new section 98A.

3. After section 98, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Provisions of this Act not to apply to genetically modified or engineered organisms.

"98A. Nothing contained in this section shall apply to the genetically modified or engineered organisms or any matter or thing connected with it to which are covered under the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2009."