

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
SUGGESTIONS/VIEWS ON "THE BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY  
AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL, 2013"**

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"The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013" as introduced and pending in Lok Sabha has been referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests, headed by **Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, M.P., Rajya Sabha** for examination and report.

2. Modern biotechnology is recognised globally as a rapidly advancing science wherein advanced molecular techniques and processes are employed to develop useful products, processes and services in areas of agriculture, human and animal healthcare, environment management and industry. Biotechnology industry in India has been growing at an average annual rate of twenty to thirty percent during the last five years and its turnover exceeded Rs. 20,440.00 crores approximately. There are, however, public concerns in respect of organisms and products derived from modern biotechnology on human, animal and environmental safety. Various countries have developed regulatory mechanisms to ensure safe and responsible use of biotechnology organisms and products. But in India, activities and processes involving the genetically engineered organisms and product thereof, are broadly regulated under the 'Rules for Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of hazardous Micro organisms/Genetically Engineered organisms or cells 1989' notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the guidelines published by the Department of Biotechnology. But despite the aforesaid

rules and guidelines, India has experienced a number of challenges. A Task Force on the Application of Agriculture Biotechnology constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2003 recommended establishment of an autonomous, statutory and professionally-led National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority which was supported by the other Task Force on recombinant pharma constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests in 2004.

3. In pursuance of the recommendations of the above Task Forces, this Bill aims *inter-alia* at establishing an independent statutory regulator to be known as the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India, to regulate research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology to promote the safe use of modern biotechnology by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of robust regulatory procedures.

4. The Committee has decided to invite Memoranda containing views/suggestions from individuals/organizations interested in the subject matter of the bill.

5. Those desirous of submitting Memoranda to the Committee may send their written Memoranda either in English or Hindi to *Shri Alok Chatterjee, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Room No. 005, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-110001. [Tel. No. 011-23034597, Fax No. 011-23015585) Email: [rsc-st@sansad.nic.in](mailto:rsc-st@sansad.nic.in)* within **thirty** days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Those who are willing to appear before the Committee for oral evidence besides submitting the Memoranda may indicate so. However, the Committee's decision in this regard shall be final. The Memoranda submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as confidential and would enjoy privileges of the Committee. The Committee will have full right on Memoranda received. It may or may not use those Memoranda while preparing the report.

6. The Bill has been published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013. Copies of the Bill can be had on written request to the above mentioned officer or can be downloaded from the official website of the Rajya Sabha (<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>) under the caption "**Bills with the Committees**".

*Website-<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>*

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