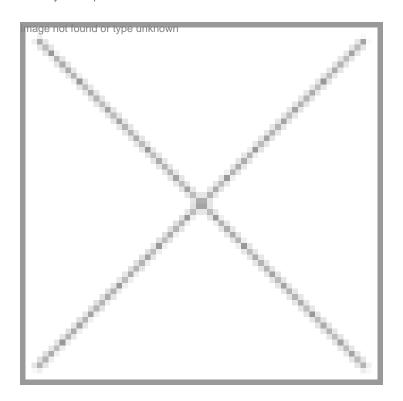


DST Seeks Advice On Usage of R&D Fund

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Recently, the DST in association with the University of Hyderabad organized a brainstorming session on Pharma R&D Support Fund in Hyderabad to seek recommendations from the industry and the academia.

In yet another attempt to boost the arrival of India on the global biotech radar, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in its recent budget has announced a corpus of Rs 150 crore. While this is a resilient enough move, the department is barraged with the effective utilization of the fund.

Seeking recommendations from the industry and the academia, DST in association with University of Hyderabad organized a brainstorming session on Pharma R&D Support Fund in Hyderabad. The event saw the gathering of nearly 50 industry leaders and more than 30 academic experts.

spearheading atternession, Prof V S Ramamurthy, secretary, DST, said, "A quality drug yet at lower price is what our country has to offer. There is a need for setting up of cost effective infrastructure facilities including shared testing laboratories, HRD improvement and upgrading the existing research facilities. Focusing on specific issues we can compete provided DST supporting at search, centralized facility that could be

used by industry and academia is essential.

He furtifeetting leapth of the seutodack of the solvential of the industry posed a problem, but with funds available now, how to use it effectively that it is a solvent and this feeling that such a search partnerships will not work. Of those who wanted to utilize these funds had issues like confidentiality, commitment of professors till the end of the project, and if DST can ensure support funding for the whole program, "he said.

Citing golds with the Working and set up in 1996 has so far stipped to the property of the pro

incurred besides setting up of an additional cell to may be recalled that during the eighth plan, there was fund allocation of Rs 10 crore. So far the TDB has approved 80 projects besides the Planning Commission allocating Rs 25 crore. The Board had also funded five loans last year in the field of clinical trials costing around Rs 50 crore. For eleven years, from 1994-95 to 2004-05, DST has supported projects worth Rs 182 project had the createness from the department. But for the year 2005-06, the department is shaked by the field of the field

forward.
Briefing the media, Ramamurthy said, "The proposed Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Fund (PRDSF) of Rs 150 crore would be given in the form of grants and loans. Of this, Rs 70 crore is the grant amount to aid institutions and Rs 80 crore widelphilipse the ulto anclamical untresses incomple intresses and three per cent. This is the first session we are having in Hyderabad. However, wippints devailed easteristist assign deally saften to a vote of the conducted three or more such sessions."

prepared to address the market as the clinical Sunitha Natio Peseal Ciris yellow to be population-based.

- Toxicology testing facility and pharmacogenetic testing.
- Ayurvedic knowledge management.
- Funds for innovative ideas.