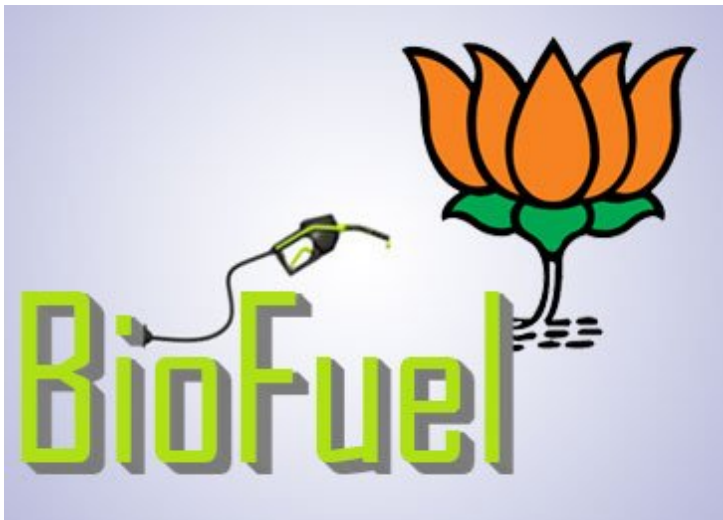


BJP favors biofuels, patents

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“The party will support large scale use of cleaner fuels to bring down pollution Indian cities,” informed the party's Manifesto 2014 released in New Delhi on April, 7, 2014. India is slated to elect a new Parliament in a 9-stage election starting today and the results are expected on May 16, 2014. “The thrust to renewable sources of energy as an important component of India's energy mix will get priority,”

BJP's 52-page manifesto has articulated its forward looking actions in many areas relevant to India's \$ 2 trillion economy. To boost industrial projects, currently stalled by delayed environment approvals, BJP has promised that “environment clearances will be transparent and time-bound.” It may be noted that the biotech regulator in the environment ministry stalled projects by not meeting at all for more than a year and only sporadically in the last years during the stewardship of Mrs Jayanthi Natarajan of the Congress Party.

Promising a bright future in innovation, the BJP has said that “we will embark on a path of generating more intellectual property and patents in a big way.” The party has promised to set up world class centers of excellence in nanotechnology, material sciences and brain research.

To further promote the use of home-grown technologies, BJP has promised to set up autonomous technology transfer offices in all government laboratories and universities as "associate organizations" to transfer "the knowhow generated by them to industry."

Also, the BJP said, industry will be encouraged to adopt or support educational and research institutions to help direct science and technology endeavors towards tangible industrial goals.

In another issue relevant to the bioscience industry, BJP has promised to set up advanced research centers to develop technologies to eradicate tropical diseases prevalent in the country. The Party has also stated that it will encourage and incentivize innovative garbage disposal and waste management practices, especially recycling techniques.