

THE IMPLANTED PROMISES OF DBT: 1986 to 1996

This was in February of nineteen eighty six
The Parliament had to resolve and the Congress had to fix;
The government cleared its creation and selected an able man as its leader
To plan, to systematize, to expand and to promote the theme as its pleader

The department in a short time became important and it started to be known as the DBT
Created initially small, this was distinct from all the other existing celebrity
DSIR, ICMR, ICAR, DST and some more; these all promoted wider aspects of science and technology;
DBT was mandated to precisely build and to sharply develop only all aspects of biotechnology!

Research, demonstrations and promotion of industry were the locus
Creation of skills, institutions of excellence and biotech centers were all in focus
Use of diverse aspects of genetically modified substances was on the fore
And enlargement of congruent policies to govern the above was made out therefore!

Ensuring healthy growth after birth was not easy without the Parliament to nod
This has been the most powerful institution in this country and therefore to accord;
For any good thing to happen for the people at large
The establishment of consent of the majority in both Houses must certainly emerge!

Papers were prepared and presentations were made extensively therefore
These started to bear fruits as the Members blessed the hard work often and more
The prolonged efforts of the leader and his team for a couple of years
Were discreet and memorable and indeed illustrious therefore!

When the Leader would present
In the premises of the Parliament
They would all sit on their seats there,
Patiently for several hours, firm and fair!

Much time would pass by and the leader won't be tired
And the explanations would seemingly be admired!
There would be queries but not much in scientific or technological content;
These would be answered in detail and written notes would be sent.

During initial days, while the presentations would continue for a couple of hours
The Parliamentarians would listen and pick up a few from the words of showers

Biotechnology would promise them better medicines, food, abatement of pollution and more
And the expectations would grow in them that were never perceived before!

For the control of population by birth, vaccines would be made and by their taking,
The Female and the male versions that were in the making
The women wouldn't conceive until a child they wished
And the men could remain sterile until the need for such states were ceased!

There would be easy-to-use cost-effective kits of diverse kind
And therapeutic proteins like insulin, cytokines, growth factors and more were in mind
Effective medicines of various kinds and range, newer skills and novel methodology
Shall be turned out in plenty by utilizing recombinant DNA technology!

Tissue culture in agriculture for productivity rise would stabilize the edible oil turmoil
Utilization of new tricks would largely raise the production of major kinds of cooking oil.
Oil Palm and coconut and a list of some more
Were carefully identified and presented before the leaders that formed the core.

Rhizobium , azotobacter ,algae and some more
Were said to complement fertility of soil and raise production of pulses and rice for sure!
Selected cows and buffaloes would be super-ovulated, a technique not done before
The eggs would be used for raising robust bulls or mulching calves in plenty, in many more.

Fish of all kinds would be produced in quantities increasingly much more
Feed-conversion ratio would intelligently be modulated through techniques therefore,
From abroad was brought some vectors, growth hormone genes therein
Fingerlings were to be raised and experiments to be mounted and the results to be seen.

Plans were made for multiplication of carps and prawns and male siblings of diverse cropper
These should result in turning the poor fishermen rich and the industry would certainly prosper.
Fish feed and fish hormones would widely be available
As the fishery industry would be modernized and a new era shall be in anvil!

For the industries that turn all kinds of water bodies dirty and nasty
Leather, Textiles, Paper and the poorly run garbage-units of the Municipality
These all will have to change and modernize their operations for sure
Enzymes of diverse kinds and elegant processes shall emerge through research therefore.

These promises with plans and papers and documents and more
Created excitement for biotechnology in the country, never perceived before!
Several individuals and institutes pushed the low-pick technologies to the industry here
Some were exported too and these all were transferred with confidence without any fear.

In a bold front, DBT assumed the responsibility of Administrative Ministry for biotech industries.
Investment for Penicillins costing more than ten billion rupees was piloted for creating factories:

Hepatitis B vaccine and several other recombinant products using home-grown clones were promoted
And significantly, the induction of Bt-cotton technology was almost singularly stewarded.

Starch, cellulose, lignins and all kinds of biomass
To be reused to produce value-added materials in surplus
Alcohols, diols, mushrooms and many such names became
Wealth-creating talks that floated around, bringing to DBT much popularity and fame!

And all these planning, stewarding and overseeing to implement and fix
With officers of just twenty six
Was possible for their training and devotion for the cause
To serve the country and to make India shining at large!

WARDAH came out for detecting filarial ailments, NII for many,
D U brought out siblings of bamboo and modified E. coli for proteins
IMTECH gave out its strain of yeast and a thrombolytic agent for curing a clot
AIIMS for typhoid fever, CDRI for leishmaniasis and manufacture of ephedrine,
And animals from super-ovulated eggs came out from NDRI and many other institutes of fame

Some efforts such as these manifested grand success until ninety-six and India emerged stronger!
But factors of market competition and performance in precision and utility and cost
That gradually took over and shifted the balance of power from production to imports;
Superiority of basics over applications sprouted then to dominate, barring technologists and engineers!

The seeds of destruction started to propagate that sprouted everywhere
Gradually the applications and innovations started to take the back seats far and near
Intellectual properties created were especially for a name and fame!
There were fewer takers for applications as often in market, these could not play the competing game!

The dream once seen to emerge dominant in production and applications
Started to lose ground; some noticed but none took the courage to correct and institute a change!
This shall therefore, continue for a while, may be for a decade or two
The country shall then realize, and the people would voice in what directions biotech should go.