

## **International centre for biotech product evaluation**

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, India, is planning to set up an international centre for biotechnology product evaluation in a 100-acre campus within the state's Biotech Park at Turkappally in the outskirts of Hyderabad. The centre will be on the lines of the National Institute of Health (NIH) of the United States, and will house India's largest primate facility with a capacity to house 2,000 to 3,000 monkeys for the purpose of the evaluation of nutraceuticals, biotech products and screening of all kinds of new drugs.

The first phase of the project is to be completed within 18 months of the formalization of the project. A public limited company is to be floated for taking up the development works of the project. The company will be responsible for professionally managing the centre also. The total project cost would be approximately Rs. 100 crore and would be raised through venture funding. The state government is to have controlling stake in the company. The National Centre for Laboratory Animal Sciences (NCLAS) at National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, is to be given full charge of developing the facility. The state government has requested the central government for necessary sanctions for the setting up of the International Centre for Biotechnology Product Evaluation and the National Primate Facility in the state. The new facility will help the state in promoting biotech and pharmaceutical industries in the state. Foreign companies will be charged five times the normal rates. The project envisages a steady profit of up to 35 per cent of the total revenue from the fifth year of launch. (Chronicle Pharmabiz, 30 May 2002)