

Initiating a close linkage

Realizing the importance of technology in the industrial growth Mr. P. Chidambaram has encouraged increased accessibility of foreign technology by Indian companies by reducing the royalty on technical service payable to the foreign companies. This is a very positive move since India still lacks the technological competence in various high technology areas, which is essential for the industrial growth. This, coupled with the reduction in import duties on computer software, computer parts, printed and integrated circuit boards, color monitors and parts of cellular phones and pagers, will certainly help India in making the best use of the technological developments.

Apart from opening up the Indian industry to foreign technologies, a very significant move has been the initiative to establish closer linkages between Indian industry and publicly funded research laboratories. With this option, Government laboratories will now be allowed to invest their knowledge and know-how in the equity of these private sector companies with income tax exemption for the same. Through this, it is expected that the research conducted in the public funded laboratories will be more need-based and application oriented. Most of the research laboratories in the country are working on topics that are of little relevance to industrial and nation's growth. Only a perfect understanding and co-ordination between industries and institutes will fetch the desired results. But this close linkage should be pursued in the right earnest by the scientists and industrialists.

Government's decision to establish close co-ordination between industries and institutes coincides with the completion of one year of TECHNOWORLD's publication, which began with the objective of providing a platform for such an interaction. We are overwhelmed by the response from the general public, during the past one-year. This is in no way an indication of the success of our endeavor. Science and technology is still considered to be subjects restricted only to scientists and engineers, which in fact is a wrong perception. Developing a scientific temper among all is essential for a developing country. We are sure that all reading public would extend their fullest co-operation to TECHNOWORLD and help us in bringing technology closer to people.

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