

CSIR labs to set up JVs with pvt firms

Converting knowledge into wealth is the aim

DNA Correspondent

Different laboratories of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) are planning to set up small joint venture companies with private industries in the near future.

Director general of CSIR Samir K Brahmachari said the main aim of establishing such joint venture companies is to convert knowledge into wealth.

"Both CSIR and the private firms shall have an equal stake in the new companies and shall have sustainable partnership. These new companies will work in different areas like pharmaceuticals, water technology, energy, coal and energy storage," said the CSIR director general.

Brahmachari along with NCL director S Sivaram were interacting

with the media here on Thursday on the occasion of the NCL's diamond jubilee celebrations.

According to Sivaram, NCL has already initiated talks with two firms to float such companies in near future. One of the areas where NCL could fortify the company is the biogas sector.

"The strength of the public laboratories is that they have brightest minds and the industry is known for its efficiency. Hence, both the laboratories and industry shall to create new entities," he said, adding that these companies would not be R&D centres.

Sivaram added that these companies would be autonomous and will be governed by the board of directors drawn from both the laboratory and the private firm.

NCL TIES UP WITH RIL

NCL has tied up with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for the use of its fuel cell that it is developing for the last 3 yrs.

Reliance Industries Limited is setting up a pipeline from Andhra Pradesh to Gujarat for supplying natural gas.

"**These fuel** cells can be used to provide power to some of the villages located near the pipeline. The gas flowing through the pipeline can be tapped to generate power with the help of the fuel cells," said NCL director S Sivaram.

Fuel cells combine hydrogen and oxygen to produce eco friendly electricity.

Researchers at NCL have innovated a variant of polybenzimidazole that can be used as an electrolyte, a part of the electricity-producing mechanism in fuel cells.

"**We have** developed the prototype of the cell using low cost materials to prove that we are capable of designing and making fuel cells of our own. We have to now take the fuel cells to the field for further experiments. We will take another two years to complete the all processes," Sivaram added.