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Front Page

Sibal mum on Indo-US N-deal

Range of incentives planned for scientists, says Union Minister

— PHOTO: K. RAMESH BABU

Hearty welcome: **Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy greeting Union Minister for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal at the inauguration of The National Tsunami Early Warning System Centre in Hyderabad on Monday as INCOIS Director Shailesh Nayak looks on.**

HYDERABAD: Union Minister for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal on Monday declined to comment on the Indo-American nuclear deal in the context of the recent comments made by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Asked by reporters after he dedicated the National Tsunami Early Warning Centre here, he said both Dr.Singh and Ms.Gandhi were extremely careful in their use of words and he neither wished to add nor take away anything from what they had stated.

It was for the media to decide on the interpretation it wished to give.

Incentives for scientists

To another question on the embargo on recruitment of scientists in Government institutions, he expressed the hope that it would be lifted in the next few months.

While no Government would be able to match the salaries paid by the corporate sector, he said that a range of incentives were proposed to be given, including 30 per cent of royalty on IPR. Besides, improved pay packages and housing and transportation facilities were also being considered.

National

Tsunami Early Warning Centre inaugurated

Special Correspondent

It will take 30 minutes to analyse the seismic data following an earthquake of more than magnitude 6

— PHOTO: K. RAMESH BABU

MEETING A CHALLENGE: **Union Minister for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal at the inauguration of the Tsunami Early Warning System centre in Hyderabad on Monday.**

HYDERABAD: A state-of-the-art National Tsunami Early Warning Centre, which has the capability to detect earthquakes of more than 6 magnitude in the Indian Ocean was inaugurated here on Monday by Union Minister for Science & Technology Kapil Sibal. He asked experts to improve the system and further reduce the time for disseminating information to the targeted people.

Lauding various agencies involved in establishing the Rs. 125-crore tsunami warning system without time and cost overruns, he said it was the most modern one in the world. It would now take 30 minutes to analyse the seismic data following an earthquake. The next task was to reduce the time to six to seven minutes, he said. The Centre was set up by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here.

Mr. Sibal later announced that two more centres of excellence — Joint Marine Meteorological Organisation and Operational Oceanography — would be set up on the INCOIS campus after Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy instantly agreed to allot 10 acres to the institution.

He said a system was being put in place for collaborating with all neighbouring countries for sharing data. He said four Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPRs) were now deployed in the Bay of Bengal, two in the Arabian Sea and another six would be installed in five to six months. He stressed that technology must be used to provide information to the people through SMS in the local languages.

Real-time network

According to an INCOIS release, the warning system comprises a real-time network of seismic stations, BPRs and 30 tide gauges to detect tsunamigenic earthquakes and monitor tsunamis. The tsumanigenic zones that threaten the Indian Ocean were identified by considering past tsunamis, earthquakes, their magnitudes, and the location of the area relative to a fault and also by tsunami modelling.

The east and west coasts of India and the island regions are likely to be affected by tsunamis generated by earthquakes from two potential sources — the Andaman-Nicobar Sumatra island arc and the Makran subduction zone, north of the Arabian Sea.

Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) customised and ran the tsunami model for five 'historical earthquakes' and predicted inundation areas. The inundated areas are being overlaid on cadastral level maps of 1:5,000 scale. These community-level inundation maps are extremely useful for assessing the population and infrastructure at risk, the release added. Apart from Dr. Reddy, P.S. Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Peter Koltermann, Head, Tsunami Unit, Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission, and Shailesh Nayak director, INCOIS, spoke.