

CHAPTER VII : CONCLUSION

7.1. Biosecurity threat is here to stay and is likely to get magnified with further advances in life science studies. It is very important that the features of globalisation are used properly to meet the threat by the world as it emerges. The strengthening of BTWC will certainly ensure reductions in biological weapons stock-pile and it will also impose physical and ethical constraints on the nations who have the will to use biological weapons. Even though even in present circumstances the direct threat by state actors is unlikely, the covert support to terrorist creates another dimension to the biothreat. The real threat is from radical terrorist organizations which have to be met jointly by all nations.

7.2. The rise in terrorism, increased religious fundamentalism and increased inequality is likely to further threaten the Biosecurity of the nations. There is hence a need for the nations to review the Biosecurity arrangements and make amends. India also has to analyse the threat and have to be ready on the similar lines to meet the threat against use of Bioweapons by terrorist organizations. The low probability high risk threat cannot be neglected as we know that any use of such weapons can have devastating effects for which the nation needs to be prepared. India as an emerging world power has to assert its way in the global forum to strengthen the BTWC, and also take both active and passive measures to counter the threat. The nation should be prepared to take care of all facets of biothreat may it be from state actors, non-state actors or a natural disaster. The present arrangements are inadequate and aspects of Biosecurity are being dealt by large number of agencies between which there is no coordination. There are also large number of Acts which individually deal with different aspect of Biosecurity. There is hence an urgent need to firstly prepare a comprehensive Biosecurity policy and thereafter continue coordination between agencies to ensure that all the Biosecurity needs are met in a comprehensive manner. Another essential aspect is coordination with industries where the development is going at a very fast pace as novel pathogens can be very dangerous keeping in view the causal effect of the pathogen and time delay in finding the right vaccine. The overall effort is required thereafter to coordinate with neighbouring countries as the spread of pathogens will not be limited to international boundaries. Training is another important aspect as this is not a routine threat and it requires specialist training. Taking the above into consideration it is time that we look into the Biosecurity threat with seriousness that it deserves and prepare a comprehensive plan which can cater for all contingencies.