This Department had the privilege of very close association with Prof. M.G.K. Menon as he was the Secretary of this Department during 1978-82. Later, when he was Member (Science) in the Planning Commission during May 1982 to December 1989 and Minister of State for Science & Technology (December 1989 to November 1990) this Department had received his support and guidance in planning and execution of scientific programmes.

Prof. Menon had a great vision of the futuristic scientific horizon. His seminal contribution as Secretary, Department of Science and Technology was to visualise and promote the scientific activities that could address the future needs of the nation. The initial initiatives for starting programmes in the Non Conventional Energy area in the country were taken up by him. Establishment of a Department of Non Conventional Energy was accomplished under his leadership and he became the first Chairman of this Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (1981-1982).

Prof. Menon realised the importance of Biotechnology and established the National Biotechnology Development Board in 1982 in the DST, which later on became a full-fledged Department of Biotechnology in 1986. The National S&T Entrepreneurship Development Board was also established in 1982 in the DST which is now a leading institutional mechanism for promoting incubation, innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the academic and R&D institutions.

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