

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

CULTIVATION OF BT BRINJAL

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce commercial cultivation of BT Brinjal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether various States, the scientific community and the farmers have opposed the introduction of commercial cultivation of BT Brinjal in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a moratorium on the introduction of BT Brinjal and Genetically Modified (GM) foods and to undertake laboratory and field studies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 BY SHRI MAGUNTA, SREENIVASULU REDDY, SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN AND SHARAN SINGH REGARDING CULTIVATION OF BT BRINJAL DUE FOR REPLY ON 24.02.2010

(a) & (b) The Government has imposed a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal event EE-I on February 09, 2010 till such time independent scientific studies establish, to the satisfaction of both the public and professionals, the safety of the product from the point of view of its long-term impact on human health and environment, including the rich genetic wealth existing in brinjal in our country.

(c) Some of the State Governments, NGOs and some sections of the scientific and farming communities have expressed apprehensions on the safety of Bt brinjal and have called for extreme caution as Bt brinjal is the first Genetically Modified (GM) food crop to be introduced in the country.

(d) & (e) The Government has imposed moratorium only on commercial release of Bt brinjal event-EE-I till such time independent scientific studies establish that Bt brinjal is safe for the human health and environment from the point of view of its long term impacts. The moratorium is not applicable to other GM food or food crops. However, all GM crops will have to undergo prescribed tests to establish that they are safe for human health and environment.