

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:903
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
GM CROPS
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal for establishment of testing laboratory for Genetically Modified crops;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made so far in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to(d) The Government has received a proposal for establishment of 'National Centre for Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms' (GMOs) [NCAG]. The proposal was considered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 14.1.2009 wherein it was noted that the proposal relates to an area that is already under very active consideration of the Government and needs to be processed in the light of new developments such as the National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA) proposed to be set up by the Department of Biotechnology and the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSA) set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was also noted that several reputed institutions in India are already carrying out many of the activities proposed under NCAG. It was agreed that a 'state of the art' institution may be necessary as a long term measure which could be inbuilt into the establishment plans of the proposed NBRA and strengthening of the FSSA.