

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:301

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

FARMING OF BT. BRINJAL

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Lingam Shri P.;Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow commercial cultivation of Bt Brinjal in the country despite the objections raised by scientists and farming community;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the expert committee on the issue has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome of the report; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government to the report alongwith the objections raised by scientists and others?

**Answer**

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

(a) &(b) No, Sir. The Government has imposed a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal event EE-I 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. This decision was taken following the Public consultations at seven location (mainly brinjal growing areas) namely Kolkata Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Bangalore have during January –February 2010.

(c) to (e) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has examined the documents received during the public consultations and a background paper highlighting the suggestions for additional studies to address the concerns that have emerged from the public consultations vis-a-vis data available from studies that have been completed by the technology providers have been prepared. These documents have been circulated for comments/views to the GEAC members, eminent scientists and experts. The main objective of this exercise is to (i) examine the need, if any, for additional studies to assess the safety of Bt brinjal both from the environment and health point of view; and (ii) the protocols and procedures to be followed for the prescribed additional studies. The comments from the experts are awaited.