

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
BIO-TECHNOLOGY REGULATORY
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enact a law for the establishment of Bio- technology Regulatory Authority of India;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed authority;
- (c) whether the Central Government has consulted all the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the law is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES (PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. The Government of India has prepared a draft Bill to establish Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. According to the Bill, the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) will be an autonomous and statutory agency to regulate the research, transport, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology. The authority shall consist of a Chairperson, two whole-time Members and two part-time members, each with expertise in life sciences and biotechnology applications in agriculture, health care, environment and general biology. The Bill provides for setting up of Inter-ministerial Governing Board to oversee the performance of the Authority; National Biotechnology Advisory Council of stakeholders to provide feedback on use of organisms and products of biotechnology in society and elaborate risk assessment process involving scientific panels of experts and representatives of concerned ministries including a special review system for evaluation of applications before final approvals.

(c) & (d) The Bill was prepared through a consultative process involving interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial experts, State Governments and other stakeholders. A special meeting of representatives from State Governments and Union Territories was organised to prepare a consensus document on role, mechanisms and functions of State level regulatory activities. The consensus document was circulated to all the States for consultation. Based on the inputs, a provision to set up State Biotechnology Advisory Committee in each state for monitoring and compliance has been made in the BRAI Bill (2010).

e) No time frame can be given at this stage.