

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2762
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)'s Mission on Agriculture is proposing huge financial outlays for transgenic research, claiming it to be the solution for the climate crisis, despite opposition from farmers and civil society groups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received a number of petitions from eminent persons for a moratorium on GM crops/fields in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture aims at sustainable development of agriculture with a view to address risks associated with climate change, while ensuring food security, enhancing livelihood opportunities and contributing to economical stability. The Mission includes a Programme of Action for mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation strategies in ongoing research and development programmes including, inter-alia, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the National Horticulture Mission, and the National Food Security Mission.

(c) & (d) The Government organized several consultations with state governments, non governmental organizations and scientific and farming communities on the issue of genetically modified (GM) crops/fields in the country. In course of the consultations, a cross-section of views have been expressed by the stakeholders on issues inter-alia, including health, loss of biodiversity, dependence on multi national companies for seeds, loss of indigenous varieties through contamination of gene pool, sustainability of technology, consumer choice and labeling and adequacy of regulatory process in relation to GM Crops.

(e) The Government assesses on a case by case basis the merits and demerits of each genetically modified (GM) crop. A moratorium on commercialization of *Bacillus thuringiensis* Bt. Brinjal is currently in force. However, commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton has been approved by the Government.