

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5768
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
SETTING UP OF BRAI
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI);
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the proposed functions thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said Authority is likely to be set up by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) However, the Government of India has prepared a draft Bill to establish Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. According to the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill, 2011, the Authority will be an autonomous and statutory agency to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern bio-technology. 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 and a National Biotechnology Advisory Council of stakeholders to provide feedback on use of organisms and products of biotechnology in society. The Bill also provides for an elaborate risk assessment process involving scientific panels of experts and representatives of concerned ministries including a special public review system for evaluation of applications before final approvals.

(c) No time frame can be given for the establishment of Biotech Regulatory Authority of India at this stage.