

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:921
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
MORATORIUM ON G.M. CROP
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government has imposed a moratorium on commercialisation of Bt. brinjal event EE-I a Genetically Modified (GM) crop in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be lifted ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) &(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has imposed a moratorium on 09.2.2010 on commercialization of Bt. Brinjal event EE-I a genetically modified (GM) crop in the country till such time independent scientific studies establish that Bt brinjal is safe for the environment and human health.

(c) As a follow up to the moratorium on Bt brinjal, a meeting of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to consult with experts and scientists on the safety of Bt. Brinjal was held on April, 27, 2011. While several of the experts recommended limited release of Bt brinjal seeds to evaluate its performance under strict supervision, some experts have suggested additional biosafety studies with respect to long term impacts on biodiversity and health. In the absence of consensus, a final decision on the issue may take from couple of months to several years. Therefore, it is not feasible to furnish any tangible time period at present. The final decision on the matter, whenever available will be put up in public domain.