

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7532
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
SETTING UP OF BIO TECHNOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): 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, 2012, 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 establishment of the said Authority at this stage.