

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1011

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

INTRODUCTION OF BT. BRINJAL

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Natarajan Shri P.R.; Saroj Smt. Sushila; Singh Shri Dushyant

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

(a) whether introduction of Bt brinjal will destroy the country's biodiversity;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the release of Bt Brinjal was approved/cleared after careful consideration of safer sustainable and affordable brinjal grown in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several leaders from farming community have requested the Government to reject the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee to release Bt Brinjal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Expert Committee on Bt brinjal based on the environmental risk assessment data has concluded that Bt brinjal event EE-1 is highly specific in its action on target organisms and has no adverse impact on non target organisms including beneficial organisms and soil micro-flora. No accumulation and persistence of Bt protein in the soil takes place and no differences with respect to susceptibility to pests and diseases have been noticed. The introgression of cry1Ac gene has in no way affected the outcrossing potential and the weediness characteristics of Bt brinjal. No instances of natural inter-specific hybridization with wild species have been reported for cultivated brinjal. Therefore, introduction of Bt brinjal is not likely to destroy the country's biodiversity.

(c) & (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 14.10.2009 concluded that Bt brinjal is safe for environmental release taking into consideration the findings of the review by three high level technical Committees namely, the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulations and two Expert Committees constituted by the GEAC in 2006 and 2009. The decision of the GEAC on the safety of Bt brinjal for environmental release is based on scientific facts/data generated during 2002-2009 and international experience with GM crops.

(e) to (g) As the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from the various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, the Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the various stakeholders before a final view on the commercialization of Bt brinjal is taken.