

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013  
MORATORIUM ON RELEASE OF GM CROP  
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government has imposed a moratorium on commercial release of Bt. Brinjal, a Genetically Modified (GM) crop in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**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 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. The final decision on the matter, whenever available will be put up in public domain