

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5468  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON GM CROPS  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted an Expert's Committee on GM crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Expert Committee has given its first set of recommendations as an interim report;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has accepted the interim report recommendations of the Committee;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) No, Madam. However, a Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 10.5.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 260/2005 in the matter of Aruna Rodrigues & others vs Union of India & others to address issues related to genetically modified (GM) crops.

(c) The TEC has submitted its interim report on 9.10.2012. TEC has inter-alia recommended (i) 10-year moratorium on field trials of Bt food crops; (ii) Ban on field trials of herbicide tolerant (HT) crops till an independent committee of experts has examined the potential impact of the HT technology including livelihood issues; and  
(iii) Ban on GM crop field trials in the centers of origin and centers of diversity.

(d)to(f) The Government of India is of the view that the interim report does not address the terms of reference and has not only exceeded the mandate assigned to TEC but are also outside the scope of the Writ Petition itself and therefore cannot be accepted. A Joint Affidavit in this regard has been filed by the Agriculture Ministry on behalf of the Government. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 9.11.2012 has directed the TEC to consider the objections filed by all respondents, interested parties and the Government and submit its report within six weeks. The TEC has sought extension of time for submission of final report.

Any further step will be incumbent on the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.