

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743  
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013  
COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF GM CROP  
Lal Shri Kirodi

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start commercial cultivation of Bt Brinjal in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various States, Scientist communities and Farmers have opposed commercial cultivation of Bt. Brinjal in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to defer the commercial cultivation of Bt. Brinjal and Genetically Modified fertilizers and conduct lab test and field study in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The Government has imposed a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal event EE-I on February 9, 2010 till such time independent scientific studies establish, to the satisfaction of both the public and professionals, the safety of the product from the point of view of its long-term impact on human health and environment, including the rich genetic wealth existing in brinjal in our country.

(c) Some of the State Governments, NGOs and some section of the scientific and farming communities have expressed apprehensions on the safety of the Bt Brinjal and have called for extreme caution as Bt Brinjal is the first Genetically Modified (GM) food crop to be introduced in the country.

(d) & (e) There is no proposal to lift the moratorium imposed by the Ministry on commercial release of Bt brinjal event- EE-I for the purpose of conducting lab tests or field trials. Besides, the issue of GM crops is subjudice in the Supreme Court of India. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee has not received any proposal either for the purpose of research or commercial release of genetically modified fertilizers.