

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:858

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority has been set up following the recommendation of the National Commission on Farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the Authority is likely to become functional?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology product and processes. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been entrusted to act as the nodal agency to establish "National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority" (NBRA). A consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill both of which were put in public domain for review and comments. Several consultative meetings were held with concerned stakeholders representing farmers and consumer's organizations, industry, legal experts, media and academia/scientists from research institutions/universities. State Governments were also consulted for their feedback. The process of inter-ministerial consultation has been completed for obtaining necessary approval for the NBRA Bill and subsequent introduction in the Parliament.