

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government do not have any mechanism to check or monitor GM crops;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to adopt mechanism to monitor GM crop trials ?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) A three tier mechanism for monitoring research and granting approval for environmental release of Genetically Modified (GM) crops has been under implementation. Under the Rules, 1989 notified on 5th December, 1989 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 this regulatory mechanism for research and environmental release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof has been established. The three tier system comprise Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBSC) at the Institute/Company; the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) a central committee serviced by the Department of Biotechnology for addressing the issues of biosafety while conducting the research work on GMOs; and the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), the statutory body to deal with all aspects of GMOs and products thereof in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. To monitor and evaluate the transgenic crops for their agronomic advantage and safety to the environment, a Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) has been created under the RCGM to have on the spot monitoring of GM crops in the field trials. In addition, sixteen Site Visiting Teams were constituted by MEC drawing expertise of the country from various scientific agencies, Agricultural Universities including State Government Officials. There is a continuing inter-ministerial exercise to shorten the processing time and speed up the approvals.

Food Processing Industries in NER

***277. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA :** Will the Minister of **FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by Government from the North **Eastern** Region for setting up of food processing industries in these States during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals cleared, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (c) As per records of the Ministry, 147 proposals for setting up/upgradation/modernization of food processing industries were received from the North Eastern Region during the last 3 years for assistance from Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Only, proposals complete in all respects were considered for assistance. A statement indicating the state-wise break up of complete and viable project proposals provided financial assistance for setting up of food processing industries including infrastructural facilities and food parks in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim in the last 3 years is given below :

Sl. State No.	No. of projects assisted		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Assam	6	1	1
2. Nagaland	1	1	—
3. Manipur	3	3	15
4. Meghalaya	—	1	—
5. Tripura	—	—	2
6. Mizoram	—	—	—
7. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—

Junk Arjuna Award Statuette

*278. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 23rd August 2001, under the caption, "Mountaineer sparks another fire, claims his Arjuna was Junk";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) the name of the metal of which the Arjuna Award statuette is made of; and

(d) by when Col. (Retd.) Balwant Singh Sandhu, an awardee for the year 1983, is likely to be given genuine Arjuna Award statuette ?