

being made by making use of genetically modified seeds in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab;

(b) if so, the crops being produced in these States by making use of genetically modified seeds; and

(c) the area of agricultural land used for production of these crops during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up under the Rule 4 of the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms of Cells 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has so far not accorded approval for commercial release of any genetically modified seed in the country. In September 2001, it was brought to the notice of the Government that Navbharat Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad, has marketed a genetically modified Bt. Cotton variety without the mandatory approval of GEAC. In Gujarat, this variety is under cultivation in nearly 11,000 acres in 19 districts. In addition, seed production for this transgenic cotton variety is being undertaken in 365 acres in Andhra Pradesh. The Government has lodged a criminal complaint against the offending company for penal action.

Development of FPU in Tamil Nadu

2795. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN:

SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of food processing industrial units set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years and how many are working efficiently;

[18 December, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

(b) how many units availed Government assistance and how many are expected Central assistance, for development;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop food processing units in that State by extending special incentives;

(d) whether Government provide any grant-in-aid; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up Food Processing Industrial Units on their own. However, the Ministry extends financial assistance under Plan Schemes to PSUs, NGOs, Cooperatives, Private sector etc. for setting up/expansion/ modernization of food Processing Industries including infrastructural facilities and Food Parks. These assistance are extended as and when viable proposals are received from entrepreneurs from different states. Three units in Tamil Nadu have availed financial assistance from the Ministry during the last three years *i.e.* 1998-99 to 2000-2001. During the current financial year, three more units have been sanctioned financial assistance.

(c) The Plan Schemes of the Ministry are project specific and not State specific or region specific. Under the major thrust scheme of setting up Food Parks, Ministry have approved State sponsored proposal for setting up of one Food Park in Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry provides grants-in-aid to the tune of 25% of cost of capital equipment and technical civil works subject to scheme-wise ceilings. A maximum grant of Rs. 4.00 crores is extended for setting up common facilities like cold storage, warehousing, effluent treatment plant, quality control lab etc. in case of food parks.