

(d) if not, why open air trials have been allowed in a large scale without bio-safety being cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Bt brinjal expressing *cry 1Ac* protein tolerant to fruit and shoot borer, a major pest which attacks brinjal crop, has been developed by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd., in accordance with the biosafety regulations prescribed under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989', notified under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules cover the areas of research as well as activities involving manufacture, use, import, export, storage and large scale applications of Genetically Modified (GM) organisms and products made therefrom. The Rules are supported by biosafety guidelines for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of GM products. The guidelines and protocols are updated regularly and are in line with the international norms prescribed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, CODEX Alimentarius Commission and International Plant Protection Convention.

(b) and (c) Biosafety data for Bt. brinjal which includes environment safety assessment (pollen escape out-crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, and baseline susceptibility studies etc.) and health safety assessment (composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies, and feeding studies on fish chicken, cows and buffaloes etc.) are available in the public domain and can be accessed at [http://www.envfor.nic.in/divisions/csurv/geac/geac home.html](http://www.envfor.nic.in/divisions/csurv/geac/geac%20home.html) and <http://www.igmoris.nic.in>

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Ban on plastic bags**

3232. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:  
SHRI SAMAN PATHAK:

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

(a) whether Government is taking any steps for complete ban on plastic bags all over the country to save the environment and to save our children from many diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not banning the plastic bags in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) whether any new technique has been developed as an alternative to plastic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The manufacture, sale and use of plastic bags and recycling of plastic wastes are regulated under the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (as amended in 2003). As per these rules, manufacture, sale and use of carry bags less than 20 micron in thickness and less than 8x12 inches in size is prohibited. Exercising the

powers delegated to them under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or by enacting separate laws, some States have prescribed more stringent norms for thickness of plastic bags or banned the use of plastic bags in tourist/public places.

(c) According to the Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued a Government Order dated 30.03.2001 prescribing authorities for enforcement of various provisions of the rules and levy of penalties for violation of provisions of the plastic Rules. Based on this Order, Municipal Council, Tadipatri passed a resolution for imposing ban on the usages of plastic bags, cups and glasses with effective from 1st January, 2006. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board (TTD Board) has passed a resolution on 20th June 2009 to prepare an action plan for immediate reduction and ultimate elimination of use of plastics in Tirumala. The TTD Board has also proposed to introduce biodegradable plastic bags for carrying laddus and other prasadam.

(d) Paper bags, jute bags, cloth bags or the bags made off degradable plastics are alternatives available to plastic bags.

#### **Environmental clearance to projects**

3233. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current rate of environmental clearance for various projects;
- (b) the details of projects given environmental clearance in 2008-09, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is ready to bring stringent regulations in this area to protect the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A total of 1545 developmental projects were accorded the Environment Clearance during the financial year 2008-09, a State-wise break-up of which is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of September, 2006 provides for the appraisal of projects, public consultation, preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for incorporation of the environmental mitigative measures.

#### ***Statement***

##### *State-wise details regarding environmental clearance to projects*

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of Projects accorded Environmental Clearance during 2008-09
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	145