

(a) whether any research studies funded by Department of Bio-Technology is in progress to assess the toxicity and consumer safety aspects of Genetically Modified Crops;

(b) if so, the details of research centres and name of investigators where the studies are in progress; and

(c) if not, the reasons why initiative is not taken for conducting studies in such an important aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) There is no ongoing research project funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) specifically to assess the toxicity and consumer safety aspects of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops. However, the Department has supported research projects for developing GM Crops for resistance/tolerance to pests, diseases and abiotic stresses. Such projects are pursued as per the Bio-safety Guidelines issued from time to time from the Government under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Rules, 1989, and the toxicity and human safety considerations are integral part of these guidelines. In order to facilitate various regulatory tests including food and environmental safety for GM crops, the Department has established a platform for translational research on transgenic crops at the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh. The DBT has also supported a 'GM toxicity and allergenicity testing unit' at Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Laying of Rangnath Mishra Commission Report to House

2401. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any report submitted by a commission constituted by Government is mandatory to lay on the floor of the House within six months;

(b) if so, why the report of Rangnath Mishra Commission has not been laid on the floor of the House; and

(c) by when Government is planning to lay the Rangnath Mishra Commission Report on the floor of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) Only in case of Commissions constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(b) The Rangnath Mishra Commission was not constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(c) The matter is under consideration.