

biosafety assessment which includes environmental safety assessment as well as food and feed safety even if it has been approved for commercial cultivation in other countries. The environmental safety assessment includes studies on 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, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety assessment studies include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. The biosafety data concludes that Bt brinjal is effective in controlling target pests, safe to environment, non-toxic in toxicity and animal feeding tests, non-allergenic and has potential to benefit the farmers.

(b) DNA is present in all living things such as plants, animals, microorganisms and is eaten by human beings with every meal. Most of it is broken down into more basic molecules during the digestion process whereas a small amount that is not broken down is either absorbed into the blood stream or excreted. So far there is no evidence to indicate that DNA from genetically modified foods has any additional risk to human health than DNA from conventional crops, animals or associated microorganisms that are normally eaten.

(c) The data generated on the safety, efficacy and performance of Bt brinjal conclude that Bt brinjal is safe for the consumers and the environment and is expected to provide enhanced economic benefits to farmers accrued from higher marketable yield and lower usage of pesticide sprays.

(d) As the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, the Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the stakeholders before a final view on the environmental release of Bt brinjal is taken.

Cases pending for environmental clearances

†2659. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE :

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE :

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

(a) the number of cases pending with the Central Government till date despite environmental recommendation of Maharashtra Government;

(b) if so, whether despite the permission of State Government for Ganpati Pule Commercial Complex in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra for construction of the complex is not being allowed and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cost of project is rising due to delay in according approval; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be sanctioned?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conservation programme of CZA

2660. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Zoo Authority's conservation programme is lagging far behind Government's laid down guidelines;

(b) the number of species put on the endangered list by Government and how many of them actually are being covered under the conservation programme; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that lack of financial support is the main cause for the failure of CZA's programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) 70 species of endangered wild animals have been selected for conservation breeding in zoos as given in the statement (*See below*), of which following species have been covered so far :-

- (i) Asiatic lion
- (ii) Snow Leopard
- (iii) Clouded Leopard
- (iv) Wild Dog
- (v) Red Panda
- (vi) Indian Pangolin
- (vii) Lion tailed Monkey
- (viii) Stump tailed Monkey
- (ix) Golden Langur
- (x) Hoolock Gibbon
- (xi) Thamin Deer
- (xii) Mouse Deer
- (xiii) Hangui
- (xiv) Pygmy Hog
- (xv) Himalayan Monal
- (xvi) Cheer Pheasant
- (xvii) Western Tragopan
- (xviii) Grey jungle Fowl
- (xix) Vulture (white backed vulture, long billed vulture, slender billed vulture)
- (xx) Falcons (Shahin falcon)
- (xxi) King cobra
- (xxii) Painted roof turtle