

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The funds from Ad hoc CAMPA have been released only after the constitution of State CAMPA as per the guidelines dated 02.07.2009, issued by the Ministry and as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 12.07.2009. The State Government has informed that so far, no funds have been released under CAMPA scheme for restoration of Kolleru Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. However, restoration of water channels for free flow of flood water into sea is being taken up by Irrigation Department with their departmental funds. Partially demolished bunds are being removed to form mounds over which planting of suitable species is being taken up to provide perches for the Kolleru birds.

Conflict of interest for members of expert committee on Bt. Brinjal

2654. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three members of the expert committee (EC2) set up by GEAC which looked into the public concerns on Bt. Brinjal had been directly involved in the development or biosafety assessment of Bt. Brinjal; and

(b) if so, whether it is not a clear case of conflict of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) None of the expert committee (EC2) members set up by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) have been involved in the development of Bt brinjal expressing event EE-I developed by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd. (Mahyco), Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore and University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad. As authorized by the GEAC, large scale field trials with Bt brinjal expressing event EE-I was conducted under the supervision of Director, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) Varanasi. IIVR is a national level vegetable research institute under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). The studies have been conducted by IIVR with the support and full knowledge of Director General, ICAR and Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR. All members of the Expert Committee are experts from public sector Institutions. Therefore, no conflict of interest is envisaged.

Pending proposals of Orissa and Chhattisgarh

†2655. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) the number of proposals pertaining to Orissa and Chhattisgarh pending for preview;

(b) the possible planned preview dates for each proposal; and

(c) the details of the hindrance, if any, therein?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.