

Climate change

2657. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) when climate change is the phenomenon occurring world over, which part of the world or countries have been the worst hit or marginally hit and where our country stand;
- (b) whether climate change can be tackled fully or it is beyond the reach of human being; and
- (c) what could be the causes for climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Current scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change on the various continents and regions at global scale are provided in the 4th Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change published in 2007. However, country-wise assessments are not available.

According to results of the various studies undertaken under the aegis of India's Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), climate change may have adverse impacts in form of extreme weather events, water stress, glacial melt, sea-level rise that could flood coastal settlements, occurrence of vector disease, etc.

(b) and (c) Climate change is a long term phenomenon. It has occurred due to increase in concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere emitted through various human activities. It could be controlled by stabilizing the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere by reducing emission of greenhouse gases having origin in human activities and enhancing the sources of sinks through afforestation.

Effects of GM brinjal

2658. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the positive and negative effects of Genetically Modified (G.M.) brinjal for commercial cultivation;
- (b) whether it is a fact that G.M. foods would cause genetic modification in those who eat them;
- (c) how far these G.M. foods are safe for consumers and environment; and
- (d) whether there would be a due move on the part of the concerned for consultations with the scientists researchers, experts and other before taking a final view on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the regulatory requirement, the applicant has undertaken extensive