

cotton, rice, okra, brinjal, potato, groundnut, tomato, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard and sorghum for generation of biosafety data.

(b) The public and private institutions which have been permitted to conduct biosafety tests include; Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, National Research Centre for Sorghum, Hyderabad; National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi; Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore; University of Agriculture, Dharwad; International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Hyderabad; M/s Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna; M/s Pioneer Overseas Corporation Hyderabad; M/s Dow Agro Science, Mumbai; M/s Monsanto India Limited, New Delhi; M/s Bayer BioSciences Pvt., Hyderabad; M/s J. K. Agri Genetics Limited, Hyderabad; M/s Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon; M/s Avesthagen Ltd., Bangalore, M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai; M/s Sungro Seeds Research Ltd., M/s Metahelix Life Sciences, Bangalore and Delhi University. The results of the biosafety studies conducted in respect of Bt cotton and Bt Brinjal are available in the public domain (<http://www.envfor.nic.in>).

Suggestions of Centre for Science and Environment

†3429. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment has given such suggestions as could be useful in managing environment within the sphere of production and consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is acting upon these suggestions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Loss of forest cover

3430. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the quantum of the loss of forest cover every year on the face of different data quoted by Government agencies in the Supreme Court, before the parliamentary committees and in the Forest Survey of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): As per 'India State Forest Report 2009' published by Forest Survey of India, the forest cover of the country has shown a net increase of 728 km² (72,800 ha.) between 2005 & 2007 while the decadal change in forest cover of the country between the period 1997 and 2007 has been assessed as 31,349 km² (3.13 million ha.). The Government of India uses the data on the forest cover from the State of Forest Report's of Forest Survey of India before the parliamentary committees, in the Supreme Court, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.