

(d) when the ill-effects and disadvantages are more and manifold, which interest was responsible to advocate the introduction of this attempt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government has imposed a moratorium only on commercialization of Bt. brinjal event EE-1 till such time independent scientific studies establish, to the satisfaction of both the public and professionals, the safety of the product from the point of view of its long-term impact on human health and environment. The moratorium is not applicable to other GM food or food crops. All Genetically Modified (GM) crops are required to undergo prescribed tests to establish that they are safe for human health and environment.

(b) The Governments of Kerala and Uttarakhand have informed that they have taken a decision to prohibit environmental release of all GM seeds and keep the State totally GM free.

(c) Bt. brinjal plants have an inbuilt mechanism of protection against Fruit and Shoot borer, one of the major pests that cause damage to the brinjal crop throughout its life cycle. The advantage include reduced insecticide application, lesser exposure of the farmers to insecticides and lesser pesticide residues in brinjal fruit and therefore safer to consumers. The potential risks associated with GM crops include risk to the environment and human health, and loss of biodiversity.

(d) So far there is no scientific evidence to conclude that ill-effects and disadvantages of Bt. brinjal are far more than its advantages. However, in view of the concerns that have emerged during the public consultations on Bt brinjal, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in consultation with eminent scientists would draw up fresh protocols for specific tests to evaluate the safety of Bt. Brinjal. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when scientific studies establish that it is safe for the human health and environment.

People displaced from forests

4047. Dr. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 million people have been displaced from forests of which 40 per cent are tribals, since Independence;

(b) if so, what is the rehabilitation measures taken to accommodate the displaced tribals; and

(c) by resorting to such displacement, whether the purpose of improving forest wealth and environment was achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not maintain records of people displaced from forests. However, after promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with effect from 25.10.1980, while processing the proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the provision of this Act, due emphasis is laid on the rehabilitation of persons getting displaced, including the tribals, on account of proposed diversion of forest land.

(c) Under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land is diverted for non-forestry purpose and as such no improvement in forest wealth and environment is expected. However, in the cases of displacement of villages from the core zones of Protected Areas, adequate provision is made for their satisfactory rehabilitation. Such displacement has invariably resulted into better management of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Sufferings of wildlife due to construction work of resorts and hotels

†4048. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the wildlife is suffering due to construction work of resort and hotels going on around the Jim Corbet National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has thought of rein in such hotels and resort on Central level;
- (d) whether Government rules are being violated in such construction works; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Reports relating to disturbance of wildlife habitat/corridor around Corbett Tiger Reserve on account of tourism infrastructure have come to light.

(c) to (e) The State has been advised for regulating the tourism related commercial activities in the area, besides declaring the surrounds of Corbett as ecologically sensitive under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Further, guidelines have been issued to phase out tourism activities from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.