

(b) The Prime Minister in a meeting held on 24.02.2010, agreed that biotechnology was an important option for higher agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. At the same time, it must be ensured that biotechnology had no adverse effects on human and animal health, and bio-diversity. He further opined that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee will address the concerns for resolving all scientific issues relating to Bt. brinjal.

(c) and (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee in consultation with eminent scientists would draw up fresh protocols for specific tests to establish the safety of Bt. Brinjal before commercialization of Bt. brinjal is allowed.

Contamination by GM materials

1082. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a global certifying agency has informed the Minister that it had been found that Soya was being contaminated by GM materials on three occasions and investigations had led to GM cotton as the source of contamination; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (b) The Ministry has not received any report regarding Soya being contaminated by GM materials. The development of GM Soya in the country is at its nascent stage and no field testing has been carried out so far. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has also not approved the import of GM Soya for food, feed or processing. Further, both the crops belong to different species and highly incompatible due to genetic differences and therefore Soya being contaminated with GM material from GM cotton is not possible.

Replacement of Kyoto protocol

1083. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was reached in Copenhagen to sign a new treaty replacing Kyoto Protocol after 2012;

(b) whether there was any agreement on goals for global emission cuts in short term such as 2013 to 2017 or 2013 to 2020 and long term such as by 2050; and

(c) whether there was any agreement on a base year for 2020 goals, for example compared with 1990 or 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) At Copenhagen, no agreement was reached on signing a new treaty for