

(d) and (e) For traditional fishermen, technical training programmes are organized on responsible fishing practices, value addition to fish catches and marketing facilities through Government Departments, Institutions and NGOs, etc.

Ban on the use of BT Brinjal

†1109. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of experts have demanded to prevent the use of BT Brinjal;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that many countries have banned the use of BT Brinjal;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to ban the BT Brinjal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Some of the State Governments, NGOs and some sections of the scientific and farming communities have expressed apprehensions on the safety of Bt brinjal and have called for extreme caution as Bt brinjal is the first genetically modified food crop to be introduced in the country.

(b) As of date, there is no commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal in the world. Bt brinjal Event EE-1 has been first developed in India is being field tested in Bangladesh and Philippines.

(c) to (e) The Government has imposed a moratorium on commercialization of Bt brinjal event EE-1 on February 09, 2010 till such time independent scientific studies establish the safety of the product from the point of view of its long-term impact on human health and environment including the rich genetic wealth existing in brinjal in the country.

Commercialization of Bt. Brinjal

1110. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments and experts were opposed to Government's proposal of commercialization of Bt. Brinjal in the country and demanded further more tests to ensure it is safe for consumption;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government has received any latest study reports on Bt. Brinjal; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.