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2008-09	Skhyasagar Wetland	0.30	Sanctioned for Rs. 0.21 crore
	Ratapani Wetland	0.32	Sanctioned for Rs. 0.18 crore
2009-10	Skhyasagar Wetland	0.30	Sanctioned for Rs. 0.11 crore

Copenhagen Accord

1080. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has ratified the accord reached at the last climate change summit in Copenhagen; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the accord and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) At Copenhagen, few Parties including India participated in an informal discussion at the initiative of COP President that produced a text called 'Copenhagen Accord'. The Accord could not be adopted by Parties and was only 'noted' by them. The Accord is only a political document and does not have a legal character of its own. The question of ratification of the Accord by India, therefore does not arise.

(b) The Accord deals with various elements of the climate negotiations including the Bali Action Plan. Following the discussions held at Copenhagen, India has voluntarily communicated its domestic mitigation actions to the UNFCCC.

Safety issues of GM foods

1081. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people in India are still not ready for acceptance of Genetically Modified Foods without proper health and safety assurances from Government;

(b) whether Prime Minister has also expressed his concerns over safety issues of GM Foods and reiterated that safety must be given full weight with appropriate regulator control based on strictly scientific criteria;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to hold fresh, independent tests before cultivation and commercialization of 'Bt Brinjal'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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.