

Sole identity proof

1599. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed unique identification number may become the sole identity proof for opening new bank accounts and getting all other services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The mandate of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue unique identification number to all the residents of India. The facility of obtaining unique identification numbers would be available to all residents on a voluntary basis. As of now, there is no proposal to make unique identification numbers for residents mandatory.

Increase in funds for NREGA

1600. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission is not in favour of raising funds for NREGA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rural Development Ministry sought 60 per cent increase in the allocation to this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the reasons for resistance from the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Planning Commission, after taking into account the resources available, competing demands from other Ministries/Departments and all other relevant factors, determines the Gross Budgetary Support for various Ministries/ Departments. The Ministries/Departments concerned, thereafter finalise the scheme-wise allocation of funds, which is endorsed by the Planning Commission. Department of Rural Development thus, has made scheme-wise allocations including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which were endorsed by the Planning Commission.

Bio-technology regulatory authority

1601. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any draft legislation to constitute Bio-technology Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed act stipulates imprisonment of critiques of GM foods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India has prepared a draft Bill to establish Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. The Bill was prepared through a consultative process involving interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial experts, State Governments and other Stakeholders. According to the Bill, the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) is proposed to be an autonomous and statutory agency to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology. The bill is currently under review by a committee of Secretaries.

(c) No Sir.

First human genome sequencing in India

1602. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sequencing of first human genome in India achieved by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has put India at par in scientific research with advanced nations;

(b) whether the Indian human genome sequencing was achieved with indigenous technology;

(c) whether the CSIR has developed indigenously the necessary instruments and reagents to carry out human genome sequencing;

(d) whether the costs of human genome sequencing technology developed by CSIR are less than that in other countries; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Sir. The sequencing of first human genome in India by Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has helped our country join the league of select countries undertaking advanced research in the area of genomics.

(b) and (c) The sequencing of human genome requires high computational capability and technological know-how in handling sophisticated machines and analyzing huge volumes of data. CSIR generated the human genome sequence data using commercially available reagents and next generation sequencing instruments. The assembly and mapping of the human genome was