

Use of genetic seeds

†2481. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the use of new genetic seeds are causing unknown reactions on the crops, land and environment;
- (b) whether Government is conducting any investigation in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India. M/s Monsanto has recently issued a press release stating that pink bollworms have developed resistance to cry 1 Ac gene in cotton crop in some localized pockets of Gujarat. However, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur which is the nodal agency for monitoring the development of insect resistance to cry 1 Ac genes has stated that the methodology followed by Monsanto in concluding that cry 1 Ac gene is not effective in controlling the pink bollworms is flawed and therefore the inferences are untenable and unacceptable.

Approval for green field Navi Mumbai International Airport

2482. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has accorded in principal approval for the development of green field Navi Mumbai International Airport in 2007;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the project is pending and held up its progress as required scientific study has not been done, so far, by the Ministry;
- (c) the steps Ministry proposes to take to complete required scientific study at the earliest possible time; and
- (d) by when the approval would be accorded for the Navi Mumbai International Airport?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.