

#### **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?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The project for establishment of Navi Mumbai International Airport was received from the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO), on 22.06.2009 for seeking Terms of Reference (ToR) under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. Accordingly, the project was appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and the Committee finalized ToR and subsequently additional ToRs for carrying out the Environment Impact Assessment Studies which have been communicated to the project proponent. There is no provision under EIA Notification, 2006 to accord in principal approval.

(b) to (d) The proposal for Environmental Clearance to Navi Mumbai International Airport, is not pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Now, the CIDCO need to submit the Environment Impact Assessment Studies as per the prescribed ToRs along with the proceedings of public consultation documents for appraisal under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

#### **National Climate Change Mitigation Authority**

2483. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Climate Change Mitigation Authority is being established that would oversee aspirational climate related targets to be achieved by 2020;

(b) if so, whether the role of concerned Ministries would be precisely defined to bring about comprehensive benefits of reduced greenhouse gas emission; and

(c) whether a preliminary study has been conducted in related fields like organic cultivation to reduce methane emission, better efficiency of coal plants, mileage-based efficiency entrusted with R&D activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change set up by the Government in June 2007 has the mandate of evolving a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level including providing oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adoption and mitigation of climate change.