

Proposal to set up special authority for GM foods

657. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no regulatory and legal framework to assess, evaluate and regulate GM foods and their effect on human lives;

(b) if so, whether Government would propose to set special authority to evaluate GM foods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989', issued under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules cover the areas of research as well as activities involving manufacture, use, import, export, storage and large scale applications of GMOs and products made there from throughout India. The Rules are supported by biosafety guidelines for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of genetically modified products. The guidelines and protocols are being updated regularly and are in line with the international norms prescribed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, CODEX Alimentarius Commission and International Plant Protection Convention.

(b) to (c) As modern biotechnology is recognized globally as a rapidly advancing science, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has prepared the draft Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill 2009 and an establishment plan for the Authority based the directives issued by the Government from time to time to promote the safe and responsible use of products derived from modern biotechnology.

Setting up innovation parks

658. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up innovation parks in some cities during the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the parameters adopted therefor and the views of people and NGOs in this regard received and implemented in the surrounding scheduled areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.