

#### Field trials of Bt. Brinjal

2073. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether field trials have been conducted with regard to Bt. Brinjal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the scientific community thereto;
- (c) whether Government has prescribed any safety standards with regard to its use; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Field trials of Bt Brinjal event EE-1 expressing cry1Ac gene have been conducted at minimum 11 locations during 2008-2010 in the institutional/research farms of IIVR/ICAR/SAUs under the direct supervision of Director, IIVR, Varanasi. The cumulative results of various trials concluded, that *cry1Ac* gene provides effective protection to the brinjal crop from the fruit and shoot borer resulting in enhanced economic benefits accrued from higher marketable yield and lower usage of pesticides sprays. However, some scientists have expressed concern on the long term sustainability of the technology in view of the likely development of insect resistance to Bt. protein.

(c) and (d) The Government has issued a moratorium on 9.2.2010 against commercialization of Bt. Brinjal based on the public consultations organized by this Ministry at seven locations. The moratorium will last till independent scientific studies establish, to the satisfaction of both the public and professionals, the safety of the product from the point of view of its long-term impact on human health and environment, including the rich genetic wealth existing in brinjal in our country.

#### Grant-in-aid to Food Park project

2074. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Grant-in-aid to the Food Park Project of four locations of Malur, Hiriya, Bagalkot and Jewargi is pending with the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has written a letter on 25 November, 2009 stating that the Ministry has mooted a separate proposal to meet the committed liabilities of old food parks sanctioned during the earlier plan periods; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government approved setting up of 3 Food Parks during 9th Plan (Malur, Bagalkot and Jewargri) and one during 10th Plan Period (Hiriyur) in the State of Karnataka. Each Food Park was sanctioned an amount of Rs. 400.00 lakhs for creation of Common Infrastructure Facilities. 1st instalment of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been released to Food Park at Malur and Rs. 100.00 lakhs each to Food Parks at Bagalkot and Jewargri. Three instalments of Rs. 100.00 lakhs each have been released in the case of Food Park at Hiriyur. Grant-in-aid is released to Food Parks in instalments based on achieving stipulated milestones of progress of the project.

(c) and (d) Food Park Scheme has been discontinued in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. However, Competent authority has approved continuation of financial assistance to the Food Park Projects approved earlier during 8th to 10th Plan Period as per approved guidelines of the scheme, with an object to meet the committed liabilities to ensure completion.

#### **Co-operation between Canada and India for food processing**

2075. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Canadian Agriculture Minister, there was discussion for enhancing cooperation between Canada and India in the field of food processing; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion held and the details of concrete results obtained therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of Canadian Agriculture Minister there was discussion for enhancing cooperation between Canada and India in the field of food processing.

(b) A meeting was convened between Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Union Minister Food Processing Industries, Government of India and Mr. Garry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food