

**Illegal planting of GMO by Monsanto**

4971. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) had evidence of illegal planting of an unapproved Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) by Monsanto in University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad and did not act on fixing liability; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the regulators not fixing liability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir; The Ministry had received a representation from M/s Coalition for GM Free India informing that M/S Monsanto India Limited has violated the biosafety norms by planting herbicide tolerant maize (NK603) as a comparator without the approval of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) during field trials with transgenic maize expressing stacked events, namely, MON89034 and NK603 at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad in Karnataka. The matter was considered by the GEAC in the meeting held on 8.2.2012. On reviewing the facts of the case, the committee noted that the field trials with transgenic maize was conducted as per the experimental field design and protocol approved by the GEAC and Director, Directorate of Maize Research. Accordingly the Committee concluded that there has been no violation in the instant case.

**Death during recruitment of forest guards**

4972. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the physical criteria for recruitment for forest guard jobs resulted in the death of one person in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this physical criteria is as per Government guidelines for forest guard recruitment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons there for; and

(f) the details of the relief measures extended to those who suffered due to the long distance run?