

Commercial Release of Bt Brinjal

2034. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists at the recently held conference on 'Biotech crops for food security in India' have appealed to Government to remove all constraints in the research and development work of biotech crops and lift moratorium on commercial release of Bt. Brinjal;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) by when the Government will consider their appeal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes Sir, A Conference on 'Biotech Crops for food security in India' was organized by the Foundation for Biotechnology Awareness & Education (FBAE) in collaboration with the Association for Biotechnology Led Enterprises Agriculture Group (ABLEAG) on 27th February 2012 at Bangalore. The outcome of the Conference has been brought out in the form of "The Bangalore Declaration". The conference has urged government to lift the moratorium on Bt. Brinjal imposed two years ago and to functionalize the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill.

(b) and (c) The matter of imposition of moratorium on Bt. Brinjal is now under consideration of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry which is in consultation with other eminent scientists is reviewing the issue in terms of the need for additional studies to assess the safety of Bt. Brinjal with respect to recent scientific developments and existing international best practices. The issue entails numbers of sensitive apprehensions especially with respect to long term impacts on biodiversity and health on which there is lack of consensus. Therefore, it may not be feasible to expedite the final decision on the matter. As far as BRAI Bill is considered, it is under active consideration of the Government and can be operationalized only after completion of due parliamentary procedures.

Loss of Forest Cover Due to Globalization and Industrialization

†2035. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which forest covered areas have disappeared due to increase in globalization, industrialization, discovery of coal mines and urban areas; and

(b) the details of the new forest covered areas developed by plantation during the last three years, State-wise?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Category-wise details of approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes, from the date the afore-mentioned Act came into force on 25.10.1980, along with the State-wise details of the area of forest and public land covered under afforestation activities during last three years is given as statement.

Statement

A. Category-wise details of the approvals (Stage-I and Stage-II) accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the date it came into force on 25.10.1980

(as on 18th April 2012)

Category of Projects/Proposals	Approvals accorded (Stage-I Plus Stage-II)	
	Number of proposals	Area of forest land diverted (hectares)
Defence Projects	245	46,087.90
Dispensaries/Hospitals	40	115.16
Drinking water projects	1,524	2,441.32
Regularization of encroachments	64	3,68,432.07
Conversion of Forest villages into Revenue Villages	16	41m170.01
Hydel Projects	487	1,17,385.69
Irrigation Projects	2,086	1,26,902.03
Mining Projects	1,682	1,44,627.79
Railway Projects	272	8,503.20
Rehabilitation Projects	48	18,463.85
Road Projects	6,100	44,681.78
Schools	138	2,708.64
Thermal Power Projects	45	6,207.80
Transmission Line Projects	2,287	34,708.03
Village Electrification Projects	50	178.02
Wind Power Projects	69	3,860.04
Other Projects	7,843	1,74,627.02
TOTAL	22,996	11,41,100.34

B. State-wise details of the area (in hectares) of plantations raised on public and forest land during last three years

SI No.	State/UT	Area of forest and public land covered under afforestation activities in (ha.)			
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,43,931	3,83,927	3,53,567	9,81,425
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7,115	6,150	10,817	24,082
3.	Assam	6,626	3,509	0	10,135
4.	Bihar	21,366	15,378	20,360	57,104
5.	Chhattisgarh	55,512	58,458	50,412	1.64,382
6.	Goa	371	488	465	1,324
7.	Gujarat	1,69,353	1,27,149	91,653	3,88,155
8.	Haryana	20,770	79,883	57,124	1,57,777
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20,165	24,710	26,123	70,998
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	25,427	15,453	6,658	47,538
11.	Jharkhand	28,950	21,914	31,894	82,758
12.	Karnataka	83,641	94,376	65,487	2,43,504
13.	Kerala	9,941	8,463	3,796	22,200
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,35,141	1,68,678	1,04,947	4,08,766
15.	Maharashtra	2,16,891	1,78,498	1,11,854	5,07,243
16.	Manipur	23,673	10,532	17,997	52,202
17.	Meghalaya	1,096	654	6,765	8,515
18.	Mizoram	2,983	7,197	4,775	14,955
19.	Nagaland	0	4,790	1,047	5,837
20.	Orissa	1,32,130	2,42,868	1,27,242	5,02,240
21.	Punjab	11,548	13,711	6,965	32,224
22.	Rajasthan	1,02,207	96,356	69,230	2,67,793
23.	Sikkim	8,007	2,734	6,739	17,480

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	66,446	95,499	44,581	2,06,526
25.	Tripura	13,228	16,650	22,835	52,713
26.	Uttarakhand	27,163	20,044	22,676	69,883
27.	Uttar Pradesh	96,070	84,516	81,154	2,61,740
28.	West Bengal	15,043	14,286	0	29,329
29.	A & N Islands	1,738	1,377	1,237	4,352
30.	Chandigarh	180	272	306	758
31.	D & N Haveli	205	200	269	674
32.	Daman & Diu	20	10	4	34
33.	Delhi	123	1,496	1,095	2,714
34.	Lakshadweep	20	27	17	64
35.	Puducherry	50	33	30	113
TOTAL		15,47,130	18,00,286	13,50,121	46,97,537

* Till December 2011.

Human Attacks on Leopards in Assam

2036. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in incidents of man-animal conflicts, particularly human attacks on leopards, over the past few months in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how many cases of such attacks and vice-versa were reported in the last three years and the loss of human life and animals;

(c) whether reports of sharing of leopard meat which were killed by locals, came into Government's notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to take to ensure that leopards are not killed further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Several incidents of leopards being killed by humans in Assam have been reported in the mass media during recent months. However, the Ministry does not have any reports which indicate any spurt in such incidents.