floods. Further, the report has projected likely adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture, food production and human health caused by increased incidence of vector borne diseases.

It is the endeavour of the government to support adaptation and mitigation actions based on scientific assessment of the phenomenon. An Expert Committee set up in 2007 has given its findings on impacts of climate change on various sectors. Further, a scientific study was undertaken in 2010 whose findings are published in a report titled "Climate Change and India: A 4×4 Assessment - A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s". The report assesses impacts of climate change on four key sectors of Indian economy, namely Agriculture, Water, Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity and Health in four climate sensitive regions of India, namely the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal Area and the North-East Region. The study has projected a mixed picture of implications for climate parameters and related impacts on the relevant sectors in all four regions.

(c) and (d) The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) has been implemented by the Government during the Eleventh and the Twelfth Five Year Plan to address Climate Change. The NAPCC includes eight National Missions and other initiatives in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change to support India's policies for sustainable development. A thematic scheme on 'Climate Change Action Programme' has been approved for implementation during the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Moratorium on field trials of GM crops

2674. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee has recommended to put a 10 years moratorium on field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other recommendations of the Expert Committee;

(d) whether Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) A Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was constituted vide Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 10.5.2012 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 260/2005 in the matter of Aruna Rodrigues and Others

vs. Union of India & Others to address issues related to genetically modified (GM) crop field trials. The TEC has submitted its interim report on 9.10.2012. TEC has recommended (i) 10-year moratorium on field trials of Bt food crops used for human consumption on the basis of review of Bt cotton and Bt brinjal biosafety data; (ii) Ban on field trials of herbicide tolerant (HT) crops till an independent committee of experts has examined the potential impact of the HT technology including livelihood issues; and (iii) Ban on GM crop field trials in the centers of origin and centers of diversity. The other key recommendations of the TEC include need assessment, strengthening and restructuring of the current regulatory system, reassessment of the biosafety data on Bt cotton and other data that is generated by all field trials; ensuring there is no conflict of interest; a ban on outsourcing or subcontracting field trials; designation of sites for field trials, and requirement of preliminary bio-safety tests etc; as a prerequisite to all GM crop field trials.

(d) and (e) The Union of India is of the view that the interim report does not address the terms of reference (TOR) and has not only exceeded the mandate assigned to TEC and is also outside the scope of the Writ Petition itself. A Joint Affidavit in this regard has been filed by the Agriculture Ministry on behalf of Union of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 9.11.2012 has directed the TEC to consider the objections filed by all respondents, interested parties and the Union of India and submit its report within six weeks. The matter is subjudice. Further steps will be taken after the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Financial assistance for surgery and other medical needs

†2675. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is provided for surgery and other medical needs to the poor by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for providing such financial assistance to the poor; and

(d) the number of approved applications during the last three years and the details of amount disbursed to the beneficiaries, State-wise and hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, The criterion for granting financial assistance to poor patients under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) and Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) *i.e.* National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.