

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Government of Odisha, there are 20 forest villages under the administrative control of 7 forest divisions in 5 districts in Odisha. Further, no case of denial of forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has come to the notice.

Section 3 (I) (h) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognises rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages. As per information available a total 3,13,242 titles of individual forest rights have been distributed in Odisha covering an area of 5,00,009.42 acres.

Various measures for development of these villages include plantation of NTFP, bamboo and other medicinal species; construction of amenities such as intra-village roads, school buildings, water harvesting structures, wells, irrigation canals, check dam, retaining wall, sprinkler PVC pipe; providing other livelihood support activities like Goatary, honey box, horticulture plantation, sewing machine; organizing health camp for health and hygiene of the village dwellers, exposure visit and awareness campaign.

#### **Generic Engineering Appraisal Committee**

4350. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to re-constitute the Generic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to proceed the trial process since more than 50 applications relating to new crop biotech products are pending assessment and approval by the regulator; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has been reconstituted on 11.3.2013 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in accordance with the provisions of 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/

Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989' of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on completion of its three year tenure. Mandate of the GEAC is not specific to crop biotechnology but includes proposals relating to activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production as well as proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials of GM crops. The first meeting of the reconstituted GEAC was held on March 22, 2013.

#### **Generation of plastic waste**

†4351. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted by Government in 60 big cities only 9205 tonne of plastic waste is being recycled out of around 15342.46 tonnes of plastic waste generated every day in the country and the rest 6137 tonnes of plastic waste left scattered here and there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that scattered plastic waste is more harmful for the health of people;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to prevent diffusion of plastic waste and control its generation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has carried out a study through Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Ahmadabad on "Assessment and Quantification of Plastic Waste in 60 Cities" during the year 2010-11. As per this study, the total quantum of plastic waste generated in the country is estimated to be about 15,342.46 tonnes per day. The total plastic waste, which is collected and recycled in the country, is estimated to be about 9205 tonnes per day and about 6137 tonnes per day of plastic waste remains uncollected.

The problems, which are associated, *inter-alia*, with the uncollected plastic waste, include (i) choking of drains by plastic carry bags which may lead to

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.