

Field trial of transgenic crops

3121. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted private companies to conduct field trials of GM crops such as cotton, corn and maize in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also received representation from various farmer organization sectors requesting Government to stop all open field trials of transgenic crops until it develops a better system of monitoring and oversight; and

(d) 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) Yes, Sir. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), apex body notified under Rules 1989 has permitted private companies to conduct experimental field trials in respect of GM crops such as cotton and maize/corn and others in various States which include Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat subject to NOC from the respective State Governments. Currently, however, there are no ongoing field trials with GM crops.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has not received any representation from farmer organization/s requesting the Government to stop all open field trials of transgenic crops.

Recommendations of Western Ghat Ecology Expert Panel

3122. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the recommendations of Western Ghat Ecology Expert Panel led by Prof. Madhav Gadgil has evoked widespread apprehension and criticism among the people of affected States;

(b) if so, the details of measures proposed by Government to address genuine fears and apprehensions of affected States, especially Kerala;