

the (Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi, South Campus) to revise the Biosafety Dossier in respect of their application for environmental release of transgenic mustard hybrid DMH- developed using barnase, barstar and bar genes. The revised dossier has been forwarded to the Sub-committee of the GEAC constituted for the purpose of review and experts comments.

(b) As per the data generated during field trials, creation of a viable hybridization system in mustard using GM technology, claims to give 25-30 per cent more yield than the current national and zonal checks.

(c) To strengthen the science based regulatory process, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology introduced the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill (BRAI), 2013 with an objective to regulate the research, transport, import manufacturing and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology. The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 2013 after comprehensive consultation with all the stakeholders including Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog), which got lapsed on dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

#### **Development of degraded forests under PPP mode**

1807. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a new scheme to develop degraded forest land under PPP mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to grow local species of plants and trees on such land for sustainability of flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Government has formulated policy guidelines for participation of public sector in afforestation of degraded forest areas. The matter is under active consideration.

(c) Government of India supports the State Governments in afforestation and restoration of degraded forests in the country including growing local species of plants and trees, through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Green India Mission and different State Plan/Non- Plan Schemes

including externally aided projects and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

Choice of species for plantation on any forest land depends on number of factors including site quality, climatic and edaphic factors, etc. The National Afforestation Programme of the Ministry emphasizes selection of suitable local species for improvement of forests under different models of plantations like aided natural regeneration, artificial regeneration, mixed plantation of trees having minor forest produce and medicinal values, pasture/silvi-pastoral development, bamboo and cane plantation and regeneration of perennial herbs and shrubs. Under the provision of forest-diversion from non-forestry activities, the Ministry has been issuing guidelines/directions to the States/UTs to plant native local species including herbs, shrubs and medicinal plants from the funds available under CAMPA.

#### **Attack on tourists by animals**

1808. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of attack by animals on the tourists have been reported by the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of tourists who have been injured and killed by the attack of animals during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government to protect and afford adequate security to the tourists visiting the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) There are no reports received in the Ministry regarding attack by animals on tourists in any national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The details of tourists injured or killed by attack of animals in national parks and sanctuaries are not collected in the Ministry.

Management of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Chief Wildlife Warden have the responsibility to ensure safety of tourists by adequate safeguards to be provided in the Management Plan.