

State Action Plan on Climate Change consistent with objectives of NAPCC highlighting State's specific issues relating to climate change. Further, National Adaptation Fund with an initial allocation of ₹ 350 crore for Twelfth Five Year Plan has been set up to address the climate change adaptation needs in sectors like agriculture, water, forestry sectors in addition to sectoral spending by the respective ministries.

National Disaster Management Authority has formulated various hazard specific guidelines for protection of life and property during natural as well as manmade disasters. Earth System Science Organization - India Meteorological Department and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services are responsible for monitoring, detection and forecast of severe weather phenomenon and Central Water Commission is responsible for issuing flood warning in respect of 43 rivers of India.

(d) and (e) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fifth assessment report published in 2014 has indicated that the number of heavy precipitation events has increased and the increasing trend in extreme precipitation implies greater risks of flooding. It also reported low confidence in observed global scale trend in drought. Extreme rainfall that occurred over coastal districts of TamilNadu was highly localized and part of the natural variability of the Indian monsoon system.

#### **Commercial release of GM mustard variety**

48. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to commercially release Genetically modified (GM) mustard variety in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of States which have given their prior consent, so far, in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the work on the plan is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 5.2.2016 had directed the applicant (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. As of now, no decision to commercially release GM mustard has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific time frame can be indicated as the safety assessment of GM plant is highly technical and is a long drawn process involving extensive consultations with the relevant stakeholders before a final decision is taken.

**Kasturirangan Committee report on eco-sensitive zones in Western Ghats**

49. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to consider the recommendations made by the Kasturirangan Committee report on eco-sensitive zones in Western Ghats; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Dr. Kasturirangan Committee Report on Western Ghats, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought out a fresh notification dated 4th September, 2015 for declaring ecologically sensitive area in the Western Ghats in supersession of the earlier draft notification issued on 10th March, 2014 incorporating provisions to clarify and to dispel the apprehensions and concerns raised by various stakeholders.

**Environmental education, awareness and training**

50. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and the steps taken by Government for environmental education, awareness and training during the last two years;

(b) whether World Bank assistance has been taken to promote Environment Management Capacity Building Project in various States of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon during the said period, State- wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST