

This gives almost continuous subsurface disposition of lithology defining the aquifer system. Such data density in short span of time is only possible with Heli borne technique. The Heli borne Geophysical System deployed uses the state-of-art dual moment Time Domain Electromagnetic technology that gives precise information on shallow and deep aquifer. A Geophysical model has been devised based on the data obtained. CSIR-NGRI has carried out the Heli borne studies at pilot level.

**Creation of independent bio-technology regulatory authority**

1283. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to create an independent biotechnology regulatory authority to deal with the use of all Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in agriculture, pharmaceuticals and bio-diversity sector, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the corrective steps taken by the Government to have a regulatory framework in the matter at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Bill (BRAI) Bill, 2013 lapsed with tenure of XV Lok Sabha and will be reviewed taking into consideration of recent developments in genetic engineering technologies for reintroduction through appropriate legislative process.

(b) India already has functional regulatory framework under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells (Rules, 1989) of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), 1986 to deal with biosafety assessment and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the field of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and biodiversity sector. It has been strengthened by the establishment of Biosafety Support Unit (BSU) to improve scientific process of Risk Assessment and Risk Management (RARM) and update guidelines and data requirements for food/feed and environmental safety assessment.

**Establishment of National Centre for Molecular Materials**

1284. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in November 2010 had approved establishment of a National Centre for Molecular Materials (NCMM) in Kerala and sanctioned ₹ 14.55 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;