

**Meeting with farmer's bodies of GM mustard growers**

\* 85. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to again meet the farmer's bodies of GM mustard growers who have been opposing the introduction of genetically modified mustard's production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has given clearance to GM mustard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the Apex Regulatory Committee constituted under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous microorganisms /Genetically engineered organisms or cells (Rules 1989) in its 133rd meeting held on 11.05.2017, recommended the proposal for environmental release of Genetically Engineered (GE) Mustard submitted by Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi, South Campus to the Government of India for its final decision. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

**WHO guidelines on arsenic limit in drinking water**

\*86 SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per WHO guidelines, the permissible limit of arsenic in drinking water is 10 ppb while the Central Government permissible limit is 50 ppb and if so, the reasons for such a stark difference between the two limits; and

(b) whether it is a fact that arsenic poisoning in ground water is rising alarmingly in large parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) As per WHO Guidelines, provisional value for arsenic in drinking