

कैप्टन जयनारायण प्रसाद निषाद
संसद सदस्य
(लोक सभा)



5, बलवन्तराय मेहता लेन,
कस्तूरबा गांधी मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110001
दूरभाष : 011-23348120

पत्रांक ...104/MFA/R.O/11

दिनांक ...30.10.11

To
Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
7, Race Course Road
New Delhi-11

Sub: BRAI Bill 2011.

Dear Dr. Singh,

I am greatly concerned about your government's proposal to push forward the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill in Parliament. Hope you are aware that at this time when this Bill is being sought to be introduced, at least seven states have already said NO to genetically modified crop trials. The such states, according to my information, are Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Karnataka and Kerala.

You must also be kindly aware that earlier, during the Bt brinjal debate, altogether 13 states had objected to approval for its commercial cultivation. And as I write this letter to you, hundreds of villages across the country are already declaring themselves GM-Free, which must be in your knowledge.

Thus it is important for me to engage your high office with this Bill since unlike other technologies, the provisions of the Bill are going to leave a larger impact for the simple reasons that most of our land is put under agriculture, most people in this country have their livelihoods associated with agriculture and most importantly, all of us consume food that is derived from agriculture. Within agriculture, it is also apparent that we need to engage with a technology like transgenics since it is a living technology that is known to be imprecise, unpredictable, uncontrollable and irreversible.

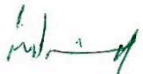
Your attention also becomes crucial since the livelihoods of millions of farmers will depend on the claims being made about GM crops and the actual reality of these new seeds and plants in the growing conditions and socio-economic milieu of our smallholders and others. Any degradation of the environmental resources and serious changes in crop ecology because of GM crops will thus have a direct impact on their livelihoods since livelihoods are intrinsically linked to the state of these resources.

I believe you will agree that a regulatory regime that does not pay attention to these issues, biosafety-related as well as issues beyond biosafety, will only benefit the industry and fail our vast majority of poor. Moreover, having held the Environment & Forests portfolio I understand that this Bill should be introduced only by this ministry and not by the Ministry of Science and Technology, apart from its other failings as mentioned above.

Hope you will do your best to safeguard the interests of our farmers, food, agriculture and most importantly our nation.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,


30/10/11