

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that testing facilities for GM ingredients are inadequate till date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by Government to augment the facilities for testing and labelling of the GM foods?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such requirement under the Act/Rule/Regulations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Testing facilities for GM food are inadequate in the country.

(e) National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) and Centre of DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) were supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) for developing testing facilities in the area of GM food testing. At present, all the institutions have some capacity, which needs to be substantially enhanced in order to cater to the regulatory requirements.

Regarding labelling of GM Foods, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has initiated work towards developing regulations on GM food labelling after consulting concerned stakeholders.

***Slow-down in economic growth of the country***

\*274. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to some reports, India's growth is likely to slow-down in 2012;
- (b) if so, whether Government contemplates to initiate proactive measures for avoiding such a scenario;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the growth rate of the country at present as per the estimates of Government?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Indian economy has emerged with remarkable rapidity from the slowdown caused by the global financial crisis of 2007-09. With growth in GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-05) prices in 2009-10 now estimated at 8.0 per cent by the Quick Estimates released on 31 January, 2011 and 8.6 per cent in 2010-11 as per the Advance Estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) released on 7 February 2011, the turnaround has been fast and strong. The CSO does not have any estimate

for growth in the next fiscal or beyond. However, the Economic Survey 2010-11 indicates that outlook for the medium term remains bright and expects growth to be 9.0 per cent (+/- 0.25) for 2011-12 on the strength of pickup in savings and investment rates at the given incremental capital output ratio. There are other institutional projections that estimate somewhat lower growth rates for the Indian economy. The International Monetary Fund forecast (as per the January, 2011 World Economic Outlook [WEO] update) estimates growth in constant market prices in the Indian economy at 8.4 per cent in 2011 and 8.0 per cent in 2012 following a growth of 9.7 per cent in 2010. Growth forecasts, by whichever agency however carefully made, are subject to error. The Government has pursued prudent macroeconomic policies on an ongoing basis with a countercyclical focus in recent years to obviate the impact of global financial crisis, strengthened structural measures to promote growth, develop product as well as financial markets, and increased social spending to provide a stronger foundation to protect the poor.

***Non-utilization of funds allocated under RGNDWM***

\*275. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some States are not able to use the funds allocated under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM);
- (b) if so, the details of the funds allocated under the Mission during the last three years, State-wise, and the reasons for non-utilization of funds properly; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) Overall, there is no inability on the part of the State Governments to utilise the funds released under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). However a few States have not been able to fully utilise the funds released to them annually due to reasons like procurement issues, time taken for preparatory activities and non-release or late release of funds by the States to implementing agencies resulting in the carry forward of unspent balance to the subsequent year for expenditure, The details of opening balance, allocation, release and expenditure incurred for the last three years by the States, is given in the Statement.

(c) To plan for effective utilisation of the NRDWP allocations from 2009-10, releases are made directly to State Water and Sanitation Mission accounts. States are required to prepare Annual Action Plans (AAP) after discussions with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development. Implementation of the AAP is monitored through the departmental online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). Officers of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation regularly review the progress of the implementation of the Programme by the States through meetings, video conferences and visits to the States. To discourage high opening balances and encourage better utilization of funds, opening balance in excess of 10% of the available funds are deducted from the subsequent release.