

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I.A.No.4 in WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO(s). 260 OF 2005

ARUNA RODRIGUES & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(For urgent interim orders/relief)

Date: 22/09/2006 This Petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.K. THAKKER

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.V. RAVEENDRAN

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Prashant Bhushan,Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. R. Mohan, A.S.G.

Mr. Rajiv Dutta, Sr.Adv.

Mr. K.K. Senthilvelan, Adv.

Ms. V. Mohana, Adv.

Mr. R.C. Kathia, Adv.

Mrs. Anil Katiyar,Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

had directed that In I.A.No.2, this Court, by order dated 1st May, 2006, till

further orders, field trial of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall be conducted

only with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). We have

perused the minutes of the meeting of the GEAC held on 22nd May, 2006. The Committee,

on considering the recommendations of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation

(RCGM), approved those recommendations and authorized the Principal Secretary of

RCGM to issue the requisite communication in that behalf. Mr. Raji v Dutta, learned

counsel, states that an application (I.A.No.6) has been filed, inter alia, praying that RCGM

shall be a party to the approval decision taken by GEAC. The said application is, however,

not listed before this Court today. It shall also be listed on the next date of hearing. Reply

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thereto may be filed by the non-applicants before the next date of hearing.

In I.A.No.4, the prayer is for issue of directions to stop all field trials for all

genetically modified products anywhere and everywhere with immediate effect, besides

certain other prayers. Reply to I.A.No.4 is yet to be filed. The respondents are directed to

file the reply within two weeks.

List all the applications on 13th October, 2006.

At this stage, without the stand of the respondents, we are not inclined to direct stoppage of field trials. At the same time, we deem it appropriate to direct the GEAC to

withhold the approvals till further directions are issued by this Court on hearing all

concerned. The Government would also consider associating independent experts in

GEAC. The petitioners may give their suggestions to learned counsel for the respondents in this regard within a period of one week from today.

(N. Annapurna)
Court Master

(V.P. Tyagi)
Asstt. Registrar