NOT YET BORN, BIO TECH MONITOR DRAWS FIRST BLOOD

GEAC will sacrifice powers if M S Swaminathan panel gets its way

ASHOK SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

The regulatory mechanism for biotechnology has been placed on the verge of getting off the ground. For starters, the M S Swaminathan panel on applications of biotechnology in agriculture wants to cut back the power of the standing regulatory authority, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC),

The GEAC was set up as an advisory body by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1988.

The panel has suggested that pending the establishment of an autonomous regulatory body, the GEAC should retain its advisory role. It has also recommended the establishment of a committee of experts to be known as a standing regulatory authority (SRA).

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