

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3488

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001

GOLDEN RICE RESEARCH PROJECT

BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce and go in a big way for golden rice, the genetically modified food, offering more opportunities for improvement of livelihood;
- (b) if so, whether any perspective plan has been drawn in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the names of other countries participating in the project ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIBACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a), (b) & (c) : A proposal for Joint Research on Golden Rice under the second phase of Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology is under consideration. It involves back-crossing, transfer and expression of gene encoding beta carotene, a precursor of vitamin-A in Indian rice cultivars and biosafety studies in Indian environment. The Indian Institutions such as Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; University of Delhi, South Campus, New Delhi; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; and Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad will be associated with the proposed research activity with in the framework of National Biosafety Guidelines. The Department of Biotechnology and Indian Council for Agricultural Research are jointly working towards finalisation of the proposal. The results leading to Pro-vitamin-A rich Indian rice varieties to be used by resource poor farmers are expected within 5-6 years.

(d) : Besides India, the technology has also been made available by the innovators to International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines.