

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:10
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2002
FIELD TRIALS OF GM COTTON SEEDS
C. SREENVAASAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have cleared/propose to clear the field trials of the GM (Genetically Modified) Cotton seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Bt. Cotton seeds cannot be used again;
- (d) if so, whether our country is in a position to produce Bt. Cotton seeds according to our requirement;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons for clearing the proposal ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b) :The Government through the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) of the Department of Biotechnology(DBT) had permitted limited contained experimental field trials in few locations in the years from 1996 to 1999. The Ministry of Environment & Forests based on the recommendations of the RCGM, had granted permission to conduct large scale field trials on Bt. Cotton during 2000 and 2001. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had also conducted field trials on Bt. cotton in the same years.

(c) : Bt. Cotton seeds can be used again for sowing.

(d), (e) & (f) : Yes Sir. The requirement of Bt. cotton as hybrid seeds can be fulfilled by usual hybrid seed production technology already in use by the seed producers. Hybrid cotton seed is being used only in 40% of the area of cotton cultivation in the country. The final approval for Bt. cotton is yet to be accorded.