

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
THEFT OF PATENT BY MONSANTO
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that an American multinational seed organization, Monsanto, has obtained the patent of an improved quality of wheat developed in India from European patent office at Munich;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action contemplated by the Union Government against this theft of patent by Monsanto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (c): M/s Plant Breeding International, a Unilever company which was acquired by Monsanto in 1998, has obtained a patent for a new variety of wheat designed for use in Europe. This variety incorporates some characteristics of the Nap Hal land race of wheat from India. The Nap Hal land race is not covered by the European patent and continues to be available to Indian farmers and researchers.