

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:903

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003

IMPORT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA CORN

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OWAISI;VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have rejected a large consignment of soya corn from US;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has reported that it lacked proper certification;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether a number of such shipment of crude soya oil and refined soya oil were cleared by the Government in the past;
- (f) if so, the details of the harmful effect reports by use of this product in India; and
- (g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that such shipment are not cleared before properly checking from the health point of view ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a ,b ,c & d) The proposal of CARE & CRS to import Corn Soya Blend (CSB) containing genetically modified (GM) material under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was considered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 7th November 2002. The GEAC noted that there are several GM corn varieties being cultivated in USA both for human consumption and animal feed. In view of the apprehension expressed by ICMR and in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the CSB shipment does not contain the banned or obsolete variety of transgenic corn, the GEAC decided not to permit the import of CSB.
- (e) The GEAC approved the import of Refined Vegetable Soya oil and Crude de-gummed Soybean oil by CARE and CRS under the ICDS programme since oil does not contain any protein or DNA.
- (f) No reports on the harmful effects by use of these oil products in India have been received in this Ministry.
- (g) All food items imported into the country are checked as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act and Rules. For food having GM content, the GEAC evaluates the food and health safety aspects prior to its import.