

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1008  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003  
SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF BT. COTTON  
AJAY CHAKRABORTY;E. PONNUSWAMY

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Panel report on Bt. cotton fudged" appearing in the Statesman, New Delhi dated January 14, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government propose to conduct a comprehensive and objective scientific assessment of the benefits of the Bt. cotton as demanded by the greenpeace activists; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes Sir,

(b), (c), & (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) accorded conditional clearance for introduction of three Bt cotton hybrids namely BT MECH 162, BT MECH 184, BT MECH 12 into the environment for a period of three years from April 2002 to March 2005. The conditions inter-alia include plantation of a non Bt refuge around the periphery of the Bt fields, monitoring the susceptibility of bollworms to Bt gene vis-à-vis baseline susceptibility data, assessing the possible impacts on non-target insects and crops and undertaking an awareness and education programme for farmers. The three approved hybrid varieties are presently under cultivation in six states namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Some of the areas where these hybrid varieties are being cultivated have recently been monitored by the Committees constituted by this Ministry for each state. The Committees have made comprehensive and objective assessment of the agronomical benefits as well as environmental impact of the Bt Cotton in the field and have found them to be performing satisfactorily.