

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1485
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
GENOMIC STUDIES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether Chickpea has been identified for the genomic studies;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith other subjects taken up by this centre;
- (c) whether an advisory council has been constituted for this centre; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) : Yes Sir. An autonomous institution namely National Centre for Plant Genome Research (NCPGR) established recently at Jawaharlal Nehru University Campus, New Delhi has identified chickpea as one of its mandate crops for the Genomic Studies.

(b) : The Centre has already initiated the work towards the development of expressed sequenced tags (ESTs), molecular markers and disease resistance gene homologues apart from regeneration and transformation studies in chickpea. Apart from undertaking plant genomic studies, the Centre would utilise molecular biology approaches alongwith tissue culture and genetic engineering techniques to identify important genes and manipulate these for generating transgenic plants with improved agronomic characters and pathogen/stress resistance. The Centre would also impart advanced training at different levels in the field of plant genetic engineering and genome analysis.

(c) & (d) : A Scientific Advisory Committee has been constituted for the Centre, which comprises eminent scientists from various research institutions located in the different parts of the country. It has representation from industry as well. The Committee periodically reviews the progress of the Centre and recommends new areas and crop-related problems to be addressed by the Centre through application of biotechnological methods.