

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7271
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
QUALITY OF COTTON
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the study conducted by the Gene Campaign has rated the performance of Bt Cotton hybrids as poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other comments made by the study report;
- (c) whether this study is significant, in the context, as the regulatory authority, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is set to review the performance of these varieties of Bt Cotton hybrids in mid-April for extending the period of approval for commercial cultivation;
- (d) whether Government has examined all these recommendations and steps Government proposed to taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the varieties have developed by the Mahyco in collaboration with Monsanto;
- (f) whether GEAC has sought reports from the State Governments and other agencies; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES(SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) to (g) Taking into consideration the reports received from the State Governments on the performance of the three Bt. Cotton varieties approved earlier, representation received from various Non-Government Organisations including that of Gene Campaign and other quarters such as the Farmers Associations, Research Institutions etc, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) took the following decision in its meeting held on 03.05.2005:-

- (i) Permission for commercial cultivation of MECH 12 Bt .for the Central Zone (States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat) renewed for a period of two years.
- (ii) Permission for commercial cultivation of MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt for the Central Zone and South Zone except Andhra Pradesh (i.e. States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) renewed for a period of two years.
- (iii) Permission for commercial cultivation of MECH 12 Bt, MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt for the State of Andhra Pradesh was not renewed.

The varieties have been developed by the MAHYCO in collaboration with the Monsanto.