

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1574  
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004  
DEVELOPMENT OF SPRING SUMMER COTTON SEED  
Surendran Shri Chengara

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed a pest free, non transgenic variety of "spring-summer cotton" seeds;
- (b) if so, whether an extensive field trial has been conducted by the department in various States;
- (c) whether this trial included non-cotton growing areas also;
- (d) if so, the details of the trial results, State-wise;
- (e) by when this variety of seeds is likely to be made available to farmers;
- (f) whether the development of new seeds will reduce dependency on imported seeds and save foreign exchange; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a) No, Sir. However, one genotype has been developed which escapes serious pest incidence, except that a low incidence of spotted bollworm was observed.
- (b) Field trials have been conducted at
  - (i) IARI, New Delhi during 2002, and
  - (ii) at IARI, New Delhi; PAU, Ludhiana; and Research Station of SVBPUAT at Bulandshahr during 2003.
- (c) Yes, Sir. This genotype is being tested in spring/summer 2004 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nimpith in Sunderbans, West Bengal.
- (d) During spring/summer 2002, this genotype recorded seed cotton yield of 458 kg/ha in New Delhi. During spring/summer 2003, it recorded seed cotton yield of 866 kg/ha in New Delhi; 842 kg/ha in Ludhiana (Punjab) and 689 kg/ha in Bulandshahr (UP).
- (e) This genotype is yet to be evaluated under All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project of ICAR. Its overall merit for cultivation by farmers shall be known only after multi-location testing in this coordinated project.
- (f) & (g): At this stage, it is too early to make any precise forecasts.