

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:231

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006

BT COTTON SEED

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

- (a) whether the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations had demanded ban for all field trials of bollgard II seed;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether there is no monitoring by the Government agency to witness the fields trials of bollgard II seed;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the accountability in case of crops failure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) The Ministry has received representations from NGOs requesting to cancel all field trials based on the reports of the Fact Finding team constituted by a consortium of NGOS.
- (b) & (c) The Bollgard –II which is currently under field trials have been monitored by the Monitoring cum Evaluation Committee (MEC) constituted by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as per the regulatory procedure prescribed under Rules 1989 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 as well as by the Indian Council of Agriculture research (ICAR) under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCP). As of date the Ministry has not received any adverse report in respect of Bollgard –II on the basis of the above evaluations.
- (d) Does not arise
- (e) Bollgard II is only under field trials and has not been approved for commercial cultivation. Therefore the accountability due to crop failure does not arise at this stage.