

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
PRICES OF G.M. SEEDS .
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether exorbitant prices are being charged by international seed majors for genetically modified crop seeds including Bt Cotton;
- (b) If so, whether the Government proposes to evolve any mechanism for regulating their prices;
- (c) If so, the details thereof; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of GM Seeds to the farmers? ANSWER

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Some complaints have been received from Andhra Pradesh about the exorbitant trait value being charged by Bt. Seed companies. Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated proceedings before Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission in this regard. MRTP Commission has directed the seed companies, through an interim order, not to charge trait value of Rs.1250/- per 450 gms. of Bt. Cotton seeds. Companies have been further directed to re-fix the trait value taking into consideration the trait value being charged in countries like China. Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of Environment & Forests has so far released 62 cotton hybrids with Bt. technology which, besides Monsanto, includes Bt. Cotton hybrids based on technology developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Bt. technology imported from China. This is expected to encourage competition among companies and bring down the prices of Bt. Cotton seeds. Further, shortage of Bt. Cotton seeds has not been reported.