

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4001

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008

USE OF BIO TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCTION OF FODDER

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to use bio-technology for producing cattle fodder in the country as appeared in 'Jansatta' dated March 16, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Veterinary Research Institute has made any research in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme 'Biotechnology Research Project' is being implemented as part of the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme since 1.4.2005 to improve feed and fodder crops through biotechnological interventions. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs.50.67 lakhs was released to the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi for the two following projects.

1. Development of better quality and disease resistant lines (Root rot and Stem rot) in berseem through inter-specific hybridization using embryo rescue technique.
2. Use of molecular markers in improvement of stylo with special reference to quality and draught.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.