

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:30

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010

GM CROPS

Rajesh Shri M. B.

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

- (a) the amount invested by Indian Council of Agricultural Research in developing various Genetically Modified (GM) crops in the country;
- (b) whether the country has any GM crops developed by the Government funded Research Institute in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the quality of the GM crops introduced by Multi National Companies and their Indian subsidiaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) initiated a Network Programme on Transgenics in the X Five Year Plan with a budget outlay of Rs.29.63 crore. The programme is being continued with a budgetary provision of Rs.100 crore in the XI Plan. This also includes Molecular breeding activity (Marker assisted breeding).

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Central Institute of Cotton Research (of ICAR), Nagpur have developed and commercialized a Bt cotton variety (Bikaneri Nerma) in 2008. Other GM crops developed by Government funded research institutions are at pre-release stage only. These include fruit borer - resistant Bt brinjal varieties developed by UAS, Dharwad and TNAU, Coimbatore; quality protein GM potato by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; transgenics in cotton (for bollworm resistance), chickpea (for pod borer resistance), sorghum (for stalk borer resistance), potato (for late blight resistance), castor (for semi looper resistance) and tomato (for resistance to virus), Bt rice, Golden rice (beta-carotene enriched rice), high iron rice etc. by different ICAR Institutes/Universities, Department of Bio-technology and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) Presently, research, import, export, manufacture and use of all genetically modified organisms including crops are regulated through an elaborate food and environmental safety assessment under the Environment Protection Act 1986 (EPA) (Rules 1989) administered under the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. Accordingly, all the establishments engaged in GM crops research should constitute an Institutional Biosafety Committee for research purposes and require permission for testing, evaluation and commercial use of GM crops from statutory interdisciplinary and inter-ministerial expert committees such as Review Committee for Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) serviced by Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. All applications for commercialization of GM crops both from public and private sector including that of multinational companies and their Indian subsidiaries are processed/evaluated by these committees for safety and quality through a set of regulatory tests, protocols and standard operating practices. Detailed information on the same is also available at website [www.igmoris.nic.in](http://www.igmoris.nic.in).