

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the results of performance of genetically modified seeds on Indian agricultural, particularly in areas where farmers committed suicides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue advisory to farmers to use traditional seeds instead of genetically modified seeds; and
- (d) 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) & (b): Bt. Cotton is the only genetically modified crop commercially approved by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The performance of the Bt. Cotton has been spectacular with almost doubling of the production of cotton in the country.
- (c) & (d): No, Madam. However, genetically modified seeds as well as traditional seeds are suggested to be grown as per prevailing environmental conditions and soil fertility of the particular areas/regions.