

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2250

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

TRAILS ON BT. CROPS

Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether tests are being conducted on Bt. ladyfinger, Bt. Cauliflower and Bt. Paddy and other crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether these tests are being conducted in the Government laboratories;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the details of crops being tested in private and Government scientific laboratories?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has accorded approval for conducting experiments on Genetically Modified (GM) crops namely; cotton, rice, okra, brinjal, potato, groundnut, tomato, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard and sorghum for generation of biosafety data. The public and private institutions which have been permitted to conduct biosafety tests include; Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, National Research Centre for Sorghum, Hyderabad; National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi; Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore; University of Agriculture, Dharwad; International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Hyderabad; M/s Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna; M/s Pioneer Overseas Corporation; Hyderabad; M/s Dow Agro Science, Mumbai; M/s Monsanto India Limited, New Delhi; M/s Bayer BioSciences Pvt., Hyderabad; M/s J. K. Agri Genetics Limited, Hyderabad; M/s Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon; M/s Avesthagen Ltd., Bangalore, M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai; M/s Sungro Seeds Research Ltd., M/s Metahelix Life Sciences, Bangalore; and Delhi University.

(e) The development of these GM crops (except okra, cotton and corn) is at its nascent stage and therefore preliminary data are being generated by the applicant within their own laboratory, green house and research farms. In case of okra, animal feeding studies have been initiated at National Institution of Nutrition, Hyderabad and accredited private laboratories such as Advinus Therapeutics, Bangalore. In case of WideStrike transgenic cotton, goat feeding study is being conducted at International Institute of Biotechnology and Toxicology, Chennai. It is recognized by Ministry of Science and Technology and also recognized by University of Madras. Field trials with transgenic corn and cotton are being conducted in State Agriculture Universities for generating information on the stability, efficacy and environment safety of the introduced gene.