

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:760  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010  
TRANSGENIC CROPS  
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether R&D institutions proposes to train scientists on bio-safety assessment including the socio-economic dimension to carry out a competent evaluation of transgenic crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Capacity building activities for efficient management of field trails of Genetically Modified (GM) crops are being regularly undertaken. Training of 19 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) with respect to use of new guidelines for confined field trails, safe operation practices (SOPs), formats for monitoring and recording of data etc. has been completed during 2008-09. The training was funded jointly by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF). Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) organized 79 awareness workshops on Genetically Modified (GM) crops with a focus on post release monitoring in all major Cotton growing States during 2006-07 to 2008-09. Global Environment Facility (GEF) Phase I on biosafety was completed in June 2008 under Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) with GEF-World Bank assistance of one million US \$ of which approximately 60% was utilized for training. MoEF is developing the GEF phase-II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety which would include

- (i) Risk Assessment and Management;
- (ii) Handling, Packaging and Transportation of Living Modified Organisms (LMOS);
- (iii) Institutional Strengthening for LMO Detection;
- (iv) Socio Economic Assessment;
- (v) Public Awareness and
- (vi) Training of Trainers. The total budget allocated for the project is about 3.0 million US \$ of which 33% has been earmarked for Human Resource Development(HRD) (Training of Trainers). The Co-Financing by the Government of India in kind will be to the tune of 6 million US \$ of which 67% has been earmarked for Human Resource Development (HRD) Component.