

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:847
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
BT. COTTON PRODUCTION
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of the sale and supply of spurious hybrids of Bt. Cotton in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has streamlined the various issues pertaining to Bt. Cotton production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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)&(b): Government of India has not received reports of sale and supply of spurious hybrids of Bt. Cotton from any of the major cotton growing States except Punjab and Andhra Pradesh (A.P.). Punjab has reported such cases during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. No report of selling/supplying of spurious seeds of Bt. Cotton has been received thereafter from Punjab. FIRs against 11 dealers have been registered and prosecution has been initiated in competent courts. Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported a few cases during Kharif 2009 by some unscrupulous elements against whom suitable action has been taken.

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. The details are given below:

1. The Manufacture, use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells including Bt. Cotton is governed by the Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Approval is based on review by various Committees such as Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RDAC), Institutional Bio-Safety Committee (IBSC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Genetic Engineering Advisory Committee (GEAC).
3. Approval for release is granted by GEAC.
4. Central Institute of Cotton Research (ICAR), Nagpur has been notified as referral laboratory for testing the Bt. Cotton.

(e): In view of the above, question does not arise.