

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4160  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010  
SALE OF GM CROPS  
Hegde Shri Anant Kumar;Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar

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

- (a) whether production and sale of genetically modified agricultural products are banned in the country;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has permitted "Monsanto India" to trade in genetically modified seeds and other agriculture inputs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the date on which the said permission was given; and
- (e) the number of other commercial organizations whose applications in this regard are pending with the Government and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (b) No Sir. There is no ban on genetically modified (GM) agricultural products in the country. However, approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is mandatory prior to production and sale of GM seeds. As of date, Bt cotton is the only GM crop in commercial cultivation. The Government has recently imposed a moratorium on commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal.
- (c) to (d) The Government has not permitted "Monsanto India" to trade in genetically modified seeds and other agriculture inputs.
- (e) The application of M/s Mahyco pertaining to commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal Event EE-I is pending consideration of the GEAC in light of several views that have emerged during the public consultations on Bt brinjal organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during January to February, 2010.