

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4174
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
TECHNOLOGY FOR BT. DNA OF BT. BRINJAL
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has the facilities and systems to detect the technology behind the Bt. DNA of Bt. Brinjal;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) If not whether the Government proposes to invest on augmenting research and development facilities in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to initiate stricter regulations on the import of genetically modified food products; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Several public and private institutions in India have facilities, systems and expertise to detect the Bt technology in brinjal. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee is a regulatory body which relies on the data generated by these institutions.

(c)&(d) Recognizing the new developments in biotechnology, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology jointly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had established five project based centres for detection of Genetically Modified (GM) foods with special reference to cotton, soyabean, corn, brinjal, tomato, rice, peanut, mustard, papaya and potato. These projects are implemented at Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, Industrial Toxicological Research Institute, Lucknow, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. For toxicological analysis of GM crops, a project has also been implemented at Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi. In order to facilitate regulation, field testing and validation of transgenic crops developed in public research funded programmes, a Platform for Translational Research on Transgenic Crops has also been established at ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

(e)&(f) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to regulate genetically modified foods, organic food, functional foods, etc. FSSAI is in the process of putting in place necessary framework and mechanisms to regulate GM foods.