

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4180
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
PRICE OF BT. COTTON
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether the Government had given approval to Monsanto to launch its Bt. Cotton technology between 2002 to 2005;
- (b) If so, the details thereof including the rate at which the Bt. Cotton seeds were sold to the farmers and the reasons therefore;
- (c) Whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had indicted Monsanto and passed an interim order in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The Government had given approval to M/s Mahyco and its Sub-licensees for commercial cultivation of several Bt. Cotton hybrids containing Monsanto Bollgard cry 1 Ac gene (Mon 531 event) technology (Bollgard -1) during 2002 to 2005.
- (b) The Bt cotton hybrids were sold at Rs 1600 to Rs 1800 per packet containing 450 gm of seeds of which Rs 1250 per packet was collected as trait value as per the agreement signed between M/s Mahyco and M/s Monsanto with their Sub-licensees. The trait value was reduced to Rs 900 per packet on 3.3.2006.
- (c) to (e)The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission vide order dated 11.5.2006 had directed M/s Mahyco during the pendency of this case not to charge trait value of Rs 900 per packet and to fix a reasonable trait value in line with what the parent company charges in China. Subsequently, based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 5.6.2006 and directions dated 29.5.2006 issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Company was directed to sell Bt cotton seeds (Bollgard -1) at Rs 750 per packet including the trait value. Currently Bollgard -1 seeds are being sold at Rs 750 per packet in all nine cotton growing states.