

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4255

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010

INSECTS AFFECTING BT. COTTON

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

- (a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has received a report confirming pink bollworm/American pink insects developing resistance to Bt. Cotton in the cotton cultivating districts of the country;
- (b) If so, whether such development is going to affect the cotton cultivators;
- (c) If so whether any steps have been proposed to address the situation including Gujarat and A.P.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

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

- (a) M/s Monsanto has recently issued a press release stating that pink bollworms have developed resistance to cry 1 Ac gene in cotton crop in some localized pockets of Amreli, Bhavnagar, Junagarh and Rajkot districts in Gujarat. However, Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur which is the nodal agency for monitoring the development of insect resistance to cry1Ac genes, has stated that the methodology followed by M/s Monsanto in concluding that cry 1 Ac gene is not effective in controlling the pink bollworms is flawed and therefore the inferences are untenable and unacceptable.
- (b) If the aforesaid situation exists or arises in future, the single gene Cry1Ac based Bt cotton would be damaged by the pink bollworm resulting in economical loss to the cotton cultivators.
- (c) to (d) The CICR under the Technology Mission on Cotton (Mini Mission 1 and 2) has recommended, to the State Agriculture Universities and the State Departments of Agriculture, a complete package of practices for effective pink bollworm management
- (e) Does not arise.