

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5189
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
HYBRID COTTON
Balram Shri P.;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several companies engaged in the development of GM crops proposes to introduce new varieties of hybrid cotton in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the suggestions received from the States, experts and scientists in this regard alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur is working on development of new cotton hybrids using Cry 1 Ac (Dharwad event).Seed companies in the private sector have got approval for field trials for new genes in cotton as given in Annexure-I. Commercial plans of these seed companies are not known.

(c) With regard to hybrid cotton, State Governments have largely sought advice on the most suitable GM hybrids for their regions so that higher yields and superior quality fibre can be obtained with minimum use of insecticides. Scientists have been evaluating new hybrids for their suitability in various states, and necessary advisory has been passed on from time to time to the respective state agricultural universities, and the state agricultural departments.