

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:545  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of centres are involved in the biotechnology research in the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Maharashtra, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the agricultural produce on which research is primarily being undertaken by them alongwith the achievements made by such centres, centre-wise; and
- (d) the details of the agro-products developed by such centres proposed to be commercialised?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 545 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/05/2010 REGARDING "BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH"

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): State-wise list of centres involved in biotechnology research in agriculture sector alongwith the details of research work and their achievements are enclosed as Annexure I.

(d) The details of Agro Product developed & commercialised by Centres are given below:-

I. At Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI), Rice Variety, Swarna Sub-I, which can tolerate submerges for two weeks, was developed through Marker Aided Selection (MAS).

II. At Directorate Rice Research (DRR), Rice Variety Samba Mahsuri, resistant to the bacterial leaf blight was developed through Marker Aided Selection (MAS).

III. At Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Rice Variety Improved Pusa Basmati-I resistant to the bacterial leaf blight was developed through Marker Aided Selection (MAS).

IV. At All India Coordinated Research Improvement Project (AICRIP), on Pearl Millet variety HHB-67 improved, resistant to downy mildew developed through Marker Aided Selection (MAS).

V. Bt cotton has been successfully commercialised in India.

VI. Bt brinjal has been recommended by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), for release. A few other GM crops viz., pigeonpea, banana, rice are in different stages of development and progress is being reviewed by the GEAC. Regarding Bt brinjal concerns expressed by the selective public, NGOs, scientists and the State Governments are being addressed.

VII. Several breakthrough research activities have now been demonstrated ('Garima' cloned buffalo calf, genome sequencing etc..) in animal biotechnology as enclosed in Annexure II.