

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6199  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
GM COTTON  
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Bollgard, a variety of genetically modified cotton of Monsanto has failed to resist a common pest in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this failure has been reported by Monsanto to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC); and
- (d) if so, the reaction of GEAC thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) During field monitoring of the 2009 cotton crop, Mahyco & Monsanto scientist detected unusual survival of pink bollworm on Bollgard cotton (Event MON531). Since then insect collections have been made and laboratory tests conducted by Monsanto at Monsanto Research Centre, Bangalore to assess for resistance to Cry 1 Ac protein in first generation Bollgard cotton. Annual monitoring studies of resistance development continue to be conducted by CICR, Nagpur and collaborative institutes.

(c) M/s Monsanto submitted a report to the CICR, Nagpur, which is the nodal agency on bollworm resistance monitoring in India and the report was forwarded to the GEAC by CICR, Nagpur.

(d) A meeting was convened by the GEAC with the technology provider and ICAR/IARI/CICR on 20.4.2010. The GEAC requested CICR, Nagpur to form a network of technology providers and lead the resistance monitoring efforts in the country, involving State Agricultural Universities, specifically.