

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6304  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010  
HYBRID VARIETY OF PULSES  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the full potential of most Hybrid varieties of pulses, excepting pigeonpea (ICPH-8) has not been realized in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enhance genetic improvement in pulse crops through biotechnology; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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) & (b): Yes, Madam. This is so because most of the other pulse crops are highly self pollinated in nature and non-availability of Cytoplasmic Male Sterility (CMS) or Genetic Male Sterility (GMS) sources in these crops makes commercial hybrid production difficult.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Biotechnology is an important tool for improvement in different crops including pulses. The main objective of pulse biotechnology at Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur is to develop transgenics in chickpea and pigeonpea to manage menace of pod-borer, and mapping and tagging of wild resistant gene(s) in pigeonpea and chickpea.