

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6342

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

BT. CROPS

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

- (a) whether Bt. rice, brinjal, tomato, potato etc. are some of the GM crops permitted for cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, whether farming of Bt. Crops is being strongly opposed as a result of which many Bt. crops are not being grown;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a): No, Madam.

(b) to (d): Concerns have been expressed regarding the risk to human health and the environment from the use of Genetically Modified (GM) crops. Government of India has, therefore, adopted a case by case approach to assess safety concerns in respect of each transgenic event. All issues relating to bio-safety, environmental safety etc., have been entrusted to a strict regulatory regime under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. GM crops can only be released in India after all the regulatory agencies are fully satisfied of their safety. Bt. Cotton is the only GM crop under commercial cultivation in the country. The area under Bt. Cotton has increased to 80.00 lakh hectare in 2009-10 as compared to 0.29 lakh hectare in 2002-03. Bt. Brinjal had been approved for commercial cultivation by GEAC but has been placed under moratorium by order dated 09th February, 2010 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Many other transgenic crops are currently being developed and tested at various public and private institutions.