

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:151  
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010  
LABELLING OF GM FOOD  
Mani Shri Jose K.

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether foods packaged and imported from the USA and Canada could be GM-contaminated due to non-labelling of GM and non-GM food;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the mechanisms to regulate such GM foods;
- (d) whether India has imposed ban on GM rice trials in basmati belt of the country for protecting our exports from GM contamination;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether it is proposed to extend the ban to other rice belts since exports of non-basmati rice is higher in volume and value; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) : At the time of import, all consignments containing products which have been subjected to genetic modification, are stipulated to carry a declaration stating that the product is Genetically Modified. In case, a consignment does not carry such a declaration and is later found to contain Genetically Modified material, the importer is liable to penal action under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

Import of Genetically Modified (GM) Food Products in India is governed by the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989' notified under provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Accordingly, as per the provisions incorporated in the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items (Schedule I), import of any food, feed, raw or processed or any ingredient of food, food additives or any food product that contains GM material and which is being used either for industrial production, environmental release or field application, will be allowed only with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. GEAC has prescribed the procedure for import of GM foods in the country.

(d) to (g): GM rice field trials have not been allowed in basmati growing areas. There is no proposal to ban GM field trials in other areas. All GM crop field trials are approved by the GEAC in accordance with the existing rules and regulations subject to stringent norms which are as follows :

- i) Maintaining a crop specific isolation distance from the periphery of the experimental site as prescribed under the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards;
- ii) Biological barriers by planting border rows all around the experimental plot;
- iii) Submission of a validated event specific test protocol of 0.01% before undertaking the trials and
- iv) Post harvest restrictions.