

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4883

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment on the Vulnerabilities of genetically modified food on women and children;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is undertaking research to develop genetically modified crops such as rice, rapeseed, mustard, soyabean, potato, brinjal etc. Appropriate risk analysis of these GM crops is being undertaken for necessary approvals of environmental release. Such risk analysis procedure includes aspects of vulnerabilities and hazard measurement of all categories of human beings.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has set up a mechanism to make biosafety assessment of GM Crops/Foods by following a policy of case to case event based approval by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), an apex body to accord approval for large scale use and commercial release of genetically modified organisms.

Introduction of any new GM food/food crop is preceded by a careful analysis of risk and evaluation of long term benefits for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed by the Government for evaluating environmental and health safety impacts of genetically modified organisms.

Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganism/genetically engineered organism or cells 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been notified.

The GAEC has so far approved only Bt cotton for commercial cultivation in India.