

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1252
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
TRANSGENIC CROPS
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra is undertaking trials on transgenic crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) has cautioned against Genetically Modified crops as a solution for food crisis and recommended agro-ecological solutions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Genetically Modified crop cultivation is increasing the use of chemical fertilizers rapidly; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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. The Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra is undertaking trials on transgenic crops and has conducted two trials on Bt Maize and three trials on Bt Brinjal so far.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. IAASTD, instead, emphasizes on agro-ecological approaches based on equitable and sustainable development of agricultural practices such as integrated natural resources management, organic farming and conservation agriculture etc. for achieving food security.
- (e) & (f): In India, only Bt Cotton has been recommended for cultivation and there is no evidence so far to indicate that the cultivation of Bt Cotton has resulted in increase in use of chemical fertilizers.