

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5061

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

IMPACT OF GM FOOD ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Bhujbal Shri Sameer

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

- (a) whether the Government has done any assessment on the particular vulnerabilities of women and children to Genetically Modified (GM) foods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment and Forest in Government of India 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.