

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5371

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010

HERBICIDE-TOLERANT CROPS

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Mishra Shri Mahabal

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact on employment generation with herbicide-tolerant crops which are being experimented in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government sees a dichotomy in trying to promote MGNREGS on the one hand and allowing labour-replacing technologies like herbicide tolerant crops being mooted on the other hand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the world's largest ecological farming project called Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture is being supported in Andhra Pradesh by the Government through women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), for improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers through non-chemical farming;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the manner in which the Government intends to take this experience to other parts of the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Rural Development has not assessed the impact on employment generation with herbicide-tolerant crops which are being experimented in the country.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. The objective of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA) is to enhance livelihood security of the rural households by providing a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of wage employment per household in every financial year for doing unskilled manual work on demand. The focus of the Act is on water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing, flood control and irrigation facilities. All these activities are supportive of agriculture.

(e)to(g): As per the information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) had initiated Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture(CMSA) in 2004 as part of its mandate to eradicate poverty and to improve livelihoods of the rural poor. CMSA was meant to support the poor farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture practices, to reduce the costs of cultivation and increase net incomes. This initiative aims to address the major causes of agriculture distress such as extensive use of chemical inputs, high costs of agriculture, dissemination of local knowledge and unsustainable agricultural practices like mono-cropping, imperfect markets etc. CMSA has been scaled up from 250farmers, 400 acres in 2004-05 to 10.7 lakh farmers, 28 lakh acres in 2010-11, with the involvement of small and marginal farmers, tenants, agriculture labour and women Self Help Groups. Its major objective is to make small farming viable.