

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:214

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

BT. COTTON SEEDS

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Harnsrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the economic viability and side effects of Bt. cotton cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure the availability of such seeds in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (d): All genetically modified organisms (GMO) are regulated under Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. In view of various concerns related to the safety, efficacy and agronomic performance of genetically modified seeds, extensive evaluation and regulatory approval process takes place before any GMO is approved for commercialization. CICR Nagpur has also conducted an analysis of the efficacy of Bt. Cotton cultivation in terms of crop productivity. The above studies have established the positive impact of Bt. Cotton in all cotton growing areas and under diverse agro climatic conditions. Frequency of pesticide sprays that a cotton crop requires has been reduced and the harvested cotton yield has increased substantially.