

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:545
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
GENETICALLY ENGINEERING EXPERIMENTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of crops and their varieties that have been identified/ approved by the Government for conducting genetical engineering experiments in the country;
- (b) the details of the agencies/organizations, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh which have been permitted to carry the experiments;
- (c) the results of the experiments/trials conducted so far;
- (d) whether the results of the experiments/trials are put under the public domain for scrutiny by the public and independent organizations such as NGOs who are working in this field;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- a) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee the apex body notified under the 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989' of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has accorded approval for conducting field trials with GM crops namely; cotton, rice, okra, brinjal, potato, groundnut, tomato, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard and sorghum for generation of biosafety data.
- b) The public and private institutions involved in conducting field trials include; Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur; Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla; National Research Centre for Sorghum, Hyderabad; National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi; Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore; University of Agriculture, Dharwad; International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Hyderabad; M/s Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna; M/s Pioneer Overseas Corporation; Hyderabad; M/s Dow Agro Science, Mumbai; M/s Monsanto India Limited, New Delhi; M/s Bayer BioSciences Pvt., Hyderabad; M/s J. K. Agri Genetics Limited, Hyderabad; M/s Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon; M/s Avesthagen Ltd., Bangalore, M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai; and M/s Metahelix Life Sciences, Bangalore.
- (c) to (e) Biosafety data for Bt cotton and Bt brinjal which includes environment and health safety data is available in the public domain and can be accessed at; http://www.envfor.nic.in/divisions/csurv/geac/geac_home.html and <http://www.igmoris.nic.in>. In respect of other crops, the experiments / trials are in progress.
- (f) Does not arise.