

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3214
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
GM CROPS
Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount invested by Indian Council of Agricultural Research in developing various Genetically Modified (GM) crops in the country;
- (b) whether the above said institution has developed any GM Crops in the country, so far;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the quality of the GM crops introduced by Multi National Companies and their Indian subsidiaries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Funds are made available to various Divisions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for overall research and development; not specifically for developing GM crops. ICAR has allocated Rs. 1601.60 crores during the first four years of XI plan period to Crop Science and Horticulture Divisions for crop improvement which includes research on Genetically Modified crops.

(b) & (c): The Institutes of ICAR have developed transgenics of Cotton and Brinjal. In crops like Sorghum, Tomato, Mustard, Potato, Sugarcane and Rice, transgenics, have been developed and are under testing.

(d) & (e): The Government has adequate regulatory provisions under the Seed Act 1966, Seed Rules 1968 and the Seed Control Order 1983 to check the quality of seeds introduced by Companies in India. To regulate the quality of Bt Cotton seeds for specifying the purity in terms of quantum of Bt gene expression in Bt cotton seeds, a notification was issued on 5.11.2005 under the Seed Act 1966. There is a specified procedure for seed sample size for Bt cotton seed lots for testing purposes under Rule 33 of the Seed Rules, 1968. State Governments have notified Seed Inspectors for enforcement of Seed law. The Review Committee on Genetically Manipulation (RCGM) constituted by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under EPA-1986 looks into the biosafety aspects of GM crops prior to environmental release. The mandate of the MoEF and GEAC is to regulate the biosafety (Environment and Health) of a GM product as per the regulatory procedure defined under Rule 1989 of EPA.