

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3506
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
GENETICALLY MODIFIED GM CROP
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any regulatory mechanism for bio-safety on Genetically Modified products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding impact of unregulated release of GM grains and vegetables on the environment and public health;
- (d) if so, the details thereto;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Supreme Court has given any direction about GM crop trials cultivation and to publish the results of trials;
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to follow the recommendations of the Honorable Supreme Court?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-Organisms / Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989', issued under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules cover the areas of research as well as activities involving manufacture, use, import, export, storage and large scale applications of GMOs and products made there from throughout India. The Rules are supported by biosafety guidelines for evaluating environmental and health safety aspects of genetically modified products. The guidelines and protocols are being updated regularly and are in line with the international norms prescribed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, CODEX Alimentarius Commission and International Plant Protection Convention.

(c) The Ministry has not received any report regarding the release of unregulated grains and vegetables in the country.

(d) & (e) Does not arise.

(f) & (g) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has allowed the field trials of GM crops subject to compliance of stringent norms such as (i) maintaining a crop specific isolation distance as well as biological and physical barriers as per the 'Minimum Indian Seed Certification Standards' recommended by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; (ii) submission of a validated event specific protocol to detect the level of contamination at 0.01% Level of Detection before initiating the field trials; and (iii) designating a lead scientist responsible for the field trials. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed the Hon'ble Supreme Court that biosafety data on Bt cotton and Bt brinjal are available at website www.envfor.nic.in and www.dbtbiosafety.nic.in for public scrutiny. It has been further committed that biosafety data of other crops will also be posted on the websites as and when the studies are complete.

(h) The Government of India is fully compliant with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.