

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2651
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
COMPULSORY LABELLING OF GM FOODS
Mani Shri Jose K.;Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has finalised any guidelines for the safety assessment of Genetically Modified (GM) foods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of its implementation in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes compulsory labelling of GM foods in the country, as also envisaged in Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the effect of GM food crops on medicinal plants; and
- (f) if so, the findings thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) & (b): The safety assessment of GM crops is being done as per the 'Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of GM Foods, 2008' developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and 'Protocol for Safety Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants / crops, 2008' developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

(c)&(d) The draft notification on GM labelling was published in the Gazette of India vide G.S.R. 152(E) dated 10th March, 2006 inviting comments from all stakeholders. It could not be finalised due to divergent and conflicting views received on labelling of GM foods. It was also noted that the Codex Alimentarius Commission (a joint body of WHO and FAO) was still to come out with its recommendations or reach a consensus on the issue. It was, therefore, considered premature to notify the labelling provisions on GM foods. Following the constitution of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) the matter comes within its purview to make recommendations to Government on this issue after taking into account all facts and scientific evidence.

(e): The Food Safety & Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) have informed that they have not yet conducted any study regarding the effects of GM food crops on medicinal plants.

(f): Does not arise.