

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
CROP TRIALS OF GM SEEDS  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Jena Shri Mohan

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether many States have expressed their reservation regarding crop trials of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds of Brinjal, Rice, Cotton etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise and reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the views/suggestions of the said State Governments;
- (d) whether Bt. Brinjal trials were undertaken in the State of Orissa; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) & (c): The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a complaint from Prof T K Bose, Member, West Bengal State Agriculture Commission that Bt okra field trials being conducted in Nadia district, West Bengal during 2007 are illegal as the M/s Maharashtra Seeds Pvt Ltd (Mahyco) have not obtained the approval of the State Biotechnology Co-ordination Committee and District Level Committees, notified under 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms (HMOs) / Genetically Engineered Organisms (GMOs) or Cells, 1989' notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It has been clarified that as per the said Rules, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is the apex body for permitting field trials of GM crops. However, the approvals granted by the GEAC are communicated to the concerned State Departments agencies. Subsequently, the State Government of West Bengal has informed that large number of agricultural farms in almost all the districts and different agro-climatic zones are available with the State and therefore, in future, all field trials may be allowed in agricultural farms of the Government instead of leased land from farmers. The GEAC has agreed to the above suggestion.

(d) & (e): Bt brinjal trials have not been conducted in the State of Orissa due to non availability of land for maintaining the isolation distance.