

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:359
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
RECOMMENDATIONS OF IAASTD
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) has cautioned against Genetically Modified crops as a solution for food crisis; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 359 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28-07-2009 REGARDING 'RECOMMENDATIONS OF IAASTD'

(a) The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which was an international initiative undertaken between 2005-2007 by a multi-stakeholder Bureau to evaluate the relevance, quality and effectiveness of agricultural knowledge, science and technology (AKST), has in its Synthesis Report underlined that biotechnologies in general have made profound contributions that continue to be relevant to both big and small farmers and are fundamental to capturing any advances derived from modern biotechnologies.

As regards the Genetically Modified crops, they have mentioned the need for addressing safety issues.

(b) The government agrees that biotechnology is a useful scientific tool for crop improvement in conjunction with conventional breeding to incorporate certain desirable traits, such as drought and salinity resistance and fortifying it with nutritional qualities. The government has already established stringent regulatory framework for addressing safety concerns.