

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3194
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
FAKE BT. COTTON SEEDS
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of fake Bt. Cotton seeds being sold by the traders and seed companies in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such traders/ seed companies; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests has given approval for commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton in nine major Cotton growing States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. None of the Bt. Cotton growing States, except Punjab, have reported recent instances of sale of fake Bt. Cotton seeds. Government of Punjab has reported that prosecutions have been launched against ten dealers selling spurious/fake Bt. Cotton seeds. All Bt. Cotton growing States are vigilant to ensure sale of genuine seeds and wide publicity is being given to create awareness among the farmers.