

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
IMPACT OF GM CROPS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a significant increase in the use of Genetically Modified (GM) food crops and other cash crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the area under cultivation of GM crops in the country, State- wise and crop-wise;
- (c) whether there are risks involved in terms of safety to human lives, livestock and also to the environment with the use of GM seeds and crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to regulate the cultivation and after effects of GM crops in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 391 DUE FOR REPLY ON 30TH AUGUST, 2011.

(a) & (b): In India, no Genetically Modified (GM) food crop has been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests for commercial cultivation. Bt. Cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in the country. The area under Bt. Cotton has increased significantly in the country from 0.29 lakh hectares in 2002-03 to 93.36 lakh hectares in 2010-11. The state-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): To ensure safety to human lives, livestock and also to the environment from the release/use of GM crops, a well laid out Regulatory Framework related to research, testing, safe use and handling of GM crops and their products is in place. Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells have been notified in 1989 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 with a specific purpose of protecting the environment and preventing hazards to human beings, other living creatures and plants in connection with the application of gene technology. These rules and guidelines are implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. The development of GM crops at laboratory stage, confined multi-location trials for generation of bio-safety data require prior approval of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the GEAC set up under the aforesaid Rules. The compliance of the regulatory procedures during GM crop field trials is monitored by the Monitoring Committees set up by the RCGM / GEAC. The GEAC takes into consideration the finding of bio-safety and agronomic studies as well as recommendations of the RCGM before according approval for environmental release. Thus, only those GM crops which are found to be safe for human lives, livestock, plants and environment are recommended for environmental release.

There are statutory provisions for post release monitoring of GM Crops during cultivation under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds Control Order, 1983 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986, etc.