

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:585

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

WHEAT GENOME RPROJECT

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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a)Whether India is the part of wheat genome project alongwith other countries;
- (b)if so, the details thereof;
- (c)the funds allocated for this project;
- (d)the expected period for the completion of the project; and
- (e)the benefits expected from the said project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES(ASHWANI KUMAR)

- (a) & (b)Yes Madam, India has joined wheat genome sequencing consortium along with 15 other nations namely- the US, UK, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Czech Republic, Norway, Israel, Turkey, Russia, China, Japan, Australia and Argentina. The consortium was established with the ultimate objective of sequencing the hexaploid wheat genome to enhance our understanding of its structure, function and evolution. India has been given the responsibility for sequencing one chromosome designated as 2A.
- (c) The project was sanctioned in January 2011 at a total cost of Rs 34.56 crore for a period of 4 years.
- (d) The complete sequence shall be available by middle of 2015; it may get completed earlier too depending upon the developments in new sequencing techniques.
- (e) Immediately after sequencing, India will have a large number of DNA markers which can be used for tagging genes of agronomical importance. Also, sequence information will help our scientists in cloning desired gene from wheat plant and manipulating it according to our needs.