

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2011

COTTON SEEDS

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a multinational company Monsanto has established its monopoly over cotton seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is spending a large part of the budget of the National Agriculture Development Scheme for purchasing seeds from Monsanto and the farmers are compelled to purchase the seeds of the said company at a price much higher than the price of ordinary cotton seeds; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): Monsanto has not established its monopoly over cotton seeds in the country as cotton seed developed by other institutions viz., Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Nath Seeds & Chinese Academy of Sciences, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad & Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and Metahelix are also approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) notified as per the provisions of 'Rules 1989 for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells' under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Government is not spending budget of National Agriculture Development Scheme for purchasing seeds from Monsanto. The question of farmers being compelled to purchase the seed of the seed company at a price much higher than the price of other cotton seeds does not arise.