

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:376  
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011  
ASSISTANCE FOR GM SEEDS  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide Central assistance for promoting the use of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the multi-national companies are testing the GM seeds without taking the State Governments into confidence and without the permission of the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**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. 376 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2011.

(a) & (b): Government of India does not provide any financial assistance in the form of subsidy for promoting the use of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds. However, since 2005-06, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is implementing a component "Use of Biotechnology in Agriculture" under Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds", for providing financial assistance for post release monitoring of transgenic crops through State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) / Department of Agriculture of States / Krishi Vigyan Kendras; strengthening of State Seed Testing Laboratories for quality control of GM seeds; public awareness through SAUs, scientific organization/institutes and promotion of tissue culture through SAUs / Specialized Institutions / Seeds Corporation.

Also, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has supported a number of R&D project with ultimate aim to identify important genes and manipulate these for generating transgenic plants with improved agronomic character and resistance against various pathogens / stresses. In addition, it has undertaken accelerated crop improvement programme for improving crops viz. wheat, rice, chickpea, maize and soyabean for biotic stresses, quality trait improvement, submergency and salt tolerance through marker assisted breeding. The Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) / Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has provided considerable science based thrust to the development of transgenic research.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Genetically Modified (GM) seeds are being approved for environmental release by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment & Forests after prescribed trials, evaluation and testing. Further, recognizing the important role of State Governments in monitoring of GM crops, the GEAC in its 111th meeting held on 06.07.2011 decided that the applicants shall henceforth obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the State Government in the first instance before issuance of the approval letter for conducting trials so as to avoid disruption of ongoing research trials.