

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1644
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the future of the use of biotechnology in agriculture; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the views of each State especially Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam. Broadly, the decisions on the future use of biotechnology in agriculture are taken based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Application of Biotechnology in Agriculture constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in May 2003 and the 'National Biotechnology Development Strategy' formulated in 2007 through 2-years long consultation with various stakeholders such as scientists, students, state governments, industry and non-profit organizations.

(b) State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have provided their views supporting the report on recommendations of the Task Force on Application of Biotechnology in Agriculture referred above along with specific inputs addressing Reeds of their State. The views of Government of Andhra Pradesh are not available in this report accessible at the website: <http://aqricoop.nic.in/TaskForce/Rep.htm>. Authorization for use of genetically engineered crops in agriculture is given by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) constituted under Rules (1989) of Environmental Protection Act (EPA), 1986 administered by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The decision is taken based on a case-by-case safety assessment as per biosafety guidelines notified from time-to-time by GEAC. However, commercial use of genetic engineered crops in each state is subject to policies of that state government. Many State Governments including Andhra Pradesh have formulated state-specific biotechnology development polices for promotion and use of biotechnologies.