

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1045  
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012  
USE OF GM SEEDS  
M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to promote the use of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Multi-national Companies are testing GM crops/seeds without taking the Government concerned into confidence;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(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, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has provided considerable science based thrust to the development of transgenic research. The ICAR- Network project on transgenic crops was launched in X Plan with budget outlay of Rs. 32.86 crores and continued in the XI plan with budget allocation of Rs. 92.80 crores.

Besides, 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 projects 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, submergence and salt tolerance through marker assisted breeding.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. The Multinational companies/ research organizations involved in any kind of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and products thereof including GM crops are required before undertaking any such activity, to seek prior approval of the committees constituted under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use/ Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests through their Notification No. 621 in official Gazette of Govt. of India on December 5, 1989 under the provisions of the 'Environment (Protection) Act', 1986.

Further, recognizing the important role of State Governments in monitoring of GM crops, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (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 trails so as to avoid disruption of ongoing research trails.