

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3161

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

SPONSORS OF ICAR PROGRAMME

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sharma Shri Jagdish;Singh Shri Bhupendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in a recently organized seminar by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dow Chemicals and Monsanto Company Ltd., were the main sponsors for the event;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any protests from various quarters in this regard;and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken not to involve these tainted companies in future?

Answer

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

- (a) M/s Dow Agro Sciences and Monsanto were two of the over two dozen sponsors/co-sponsors of two recently held Conferences, namely "Second International Conference on Agrochemicals Protecting Crops, Health and Natural Environment: Role of Chemistry for Sustainable Agriculture" during 15-18 February 2012, and the "International Conference on Plant Biotechnology for Food Security: New Frontiers" during February 21-24, 2012, New Delhi, India.
- (b) Preparations for the conferences were begun in 2011, when the letters asking for financial support were sent out in the month of September, 2011. Apart from their commercial activities Dow Agro Sciences and Monsanto also have R&D facilities in India. As a consequences, ICAR scientists have working relation with them, especially in terms of interaction at academic conferences etc. for a considerably long time. The organizers were not aware of any Government directions prohibiting sponsorship/relationship with any Dow and Monsanto Company.
- (c) In the context of Dow's sponsorship of the Olympics Acting President, Indian Olympic Association, wrote to the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, and reports also appeared in certain newspapers.
- (d) Care is taken to accept sponsorships only from companies legally functioning in India.