

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3469
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
ILLIBERAL USE OF PRODUCTS OF SCIENCE
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

(a) whether the Government is against the tendencies of putting the products of science to illiberal and illegal uses since the science had made strides even in societies that were neither modern nor liberal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government is against the illiberal and illegal uses of the products of science. In this direction the Government has promulgated "Rules for the Manufacture/Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" to regulate all activities related to genetically modified organisms and their products. These rules are broad in scope and capture all activities, products and processes related to or derived from biotechnology including foods. The rules are implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Department of Biotechnology through five competent authorities: the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC); the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM); Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBSC); State Biosafety Coordination Committees (SBCC), and; District Level Committees (DLC). The National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority, Department of Science and Technology monitors laboratories undertaking health and environmental safety studies on pharmaceuticals, pesticides, cosmetics, veterinary drugs, food & feed additives, and industrial chemicals. Similarly, rules and amendments under drugs and cosmetics Act, 2010; Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 regulate commercial use of products used for health care, food and food ingredients. The Government is also employing the products of science for use in society by facilitating delivery of technologies through various scheme and programmes including public private partnership endeavoring to stimulate scientific and technological temper to enable informed decision making at the grass root level.