

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6287  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012  
DEVELOPMENT OF BT. COTTON VARIETY  
Anandan Shri K.Murugesan

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has constituted a committee to examine the claims regarding development of an indigenous variety of Bt. Cotton called Bikaner Narma made by some Indian scientists;
- (b) if so, the details of such claims alongwith the composition and terms of reference of the said committee; and
- (c) the present status thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The research in the development of genetically modified (GM) cotton was taken up in 1998, through funding of National Agriculture Technology Project, in which National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi along with University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad and Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur were participants. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has constituted an Expert Committee headed by the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi to examine the scientific claim of development of indigenous variety of Bt cotton called Bikaneri Narma. The details of the composition of the Committee along with the Terms of Reference are furnished in Annexure-I.

(c) The Expert Committee has started functioning.