

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3758
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
SAFETY OF GM TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's hesitation to adopt GM technology is devoid of any rationale given the scientific consensus that has now framed even in Europe over the safety of the GM technology; and

(b) if so, the Government's comments thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) There is no ambiguity in adoption of GM technology by India. The Government of India is of the view that use of genetically modified (GM) technology offers the potential for increased agricultural productivity and improved nutritional value which may contribute directly to enhancing food security and human health. Simultaneously, it is also recognized that the use of GM technology in agriculture may involve potential risk to human health and environment. Accordingly, Government of India is following a policy of case by case event based assessment of GM technology in accordance with 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989' of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and following international norms prescribed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), CODEX Alimentarius Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).