

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:252

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012

BAN ON GM CROPS

Ray Shri Saugata;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

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

- (a) whether France and other countries have imposed ban on the cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to ban GM crops/seeds in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 252 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2012.

(a) to (e): Safety assessment in regard to cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops is conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on behalf of the European Commission. EFSA has approved the cultivation of GM maize and GM potato. France, and some other member States of the European Union like Austria, Greece, Hungary, Germany and Luxembourg have, however, invoked "safeguard clause" and prohibited the cultivation of GM maize in their respective countries. Some other member States of the European Union like Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland and Slovakia allow the cultivation of GM maize and Germany allows the cultivation of GM potato. It is understood that EFSA has considered the concerns raised by France and come to the conclusion that there is no specific scientific evidence, in terms of risk to human and animal health or the environment, that would invalidate its previous risk assessments of GM maize.

Government of India follows a case by case approach for the release of GM crops in accordance with the internationally accepted biosafety norms as prescribed by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Codex Alimentarius – International Food Standards, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO). There is, therefore, no proposal to ban GM crops in the country.

Source: EFSA Journal, 2012