

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1017

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

USE OF GM FOODS

Karunakaran Shri P.;Mani Shri Jose K.;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to permit Genetically Modified (GM) foods in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the readymade food items like breakfast cereals supplied by Multinational Companies is manufactured by using GM foodgrains;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any mechanism to check the content of such foods in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and (g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, notified under "Rules for the Manufacture, use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or cells, 1989", has approved the commercial cultivation of Bt cotton and import of GM Soybean oil derived from 'Roundup Ready' soybean.

(C) to (g) The entry of GM food at various ports is governed by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide their notification dated April 7, 2006. In accordance with the above regulation the mandate of the Customs and the DGFT is to ensure that the importer has obtained proper approvals of GM food imports, the shipments are accompanied with proper documentation; verify that contents of shipment match accompanying documentation; detect illegal LMO imports and take appropriate measures. As regards the illegal entry of GM foods, the Ministry has not received any complaint from DGFT or the Customs. Further, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, vide Gazette Notification G.S.R. 427(E) of 5th June 2012, has mandated the labeling of packaged food containing GMOs with the words "GM." The labeling requirement for packaged foods containing GM ingredients is mandatory from January 1, 2013.