

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2475

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

BENEFITS OF RESEARCH

Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that GM seeds are not able to manage pests and sucking pests is a major problem for the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether indigenous varieties of seeds are not available to the farmers and private companies are exploiting the farmers by purchasing the new technologies from researchcentres;and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide the benefits of the research directly to the farmers to save them from exploitation by the companies?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b) Cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in India. Bt cotton has been highly effective in managing cotton bollworms. Bt delta-endotoxin genes in GM cotton have no effect in suppressing sap sucking pests of this crop.

Sap sucking pests have emerged as a major problem on cotton in recent times. While GM cotton cultivation reduced the overall pesticide use in the crop, use of pesticides targeted against sap sucking pests has increased from 2374 M tonnes in 2006 to 6372 M tonnes in 2011.

(c) & (d) GM cotton hybrids under cultivation are those developed from Indian cotton genetic base. The cotton farmers buy Bt cotton hybrids seeds of their choice in various states.

Cotton production technologies that are relevant to all agro-ecologies have been demonstrated and advised to farmers.