

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:736  
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Institute of Nutrition has done any research to turn the Kesar Dal into a potent food crop using detoxification method and genetic modification;
- (b) if so, the details of the research; and
- (c) the further steps taken by the Government to reduce toxicity of Kesar Dal and make available its modified variety to farmers for cultivation?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b): National Institute of Nutrition of Indian Council of Medical Research has not done any study on crop detoxification or genetic modifications.

(c): Development and evaluation of low toxin varieties are undertaken by Indian Council of Agricultural Research in order to reduce toxicity of Kesar Dal. Low neurotoxin varieties of Grasspea varieties like Ratan, Prateek and Mahateora were developed using conventional breeding and by developing somaclonal variations.

Further, for promoting the high yielding low toxin varieties of Grasspea varieties like Ratan, Prateek, Moti, Nirmal, Mahateora, etc. Government of India has sanctioned a pilot project "enhancing Grasspea production for safe human food, animal feed and sustainable rice based production system in India" to international centre for agricultural research in the dry areas South Asia Regional Programme.