

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4371  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013  
PROMOTION OF GM SEEDS  
Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) whether the farmers organizations are agitated against the listing and promotion of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey of the official results of the testing of G.M. seeds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any action after taking cognizance about the confirmation of reports of GM Seeds being harmful for the environment and health; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) &(b) No Madam; This Ministry has not received any report stating that farmers' organizations are agitated against listing and promotion of GM seeds in the country.

(c) to (f) The Government of India is following a policy of case by case approval of genetically modified (GM) crops based on extensive environmental and food safety assessment which includes studies on pollen escape out-crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies, composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product.