

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4483
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
TESTING OF GM FOOD
Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

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

- (a) whether there is lack of regulatory mechanism in regard to permission for use of 'Genetically Modified' (GM) Food in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it would be sufficient to give an undertaking by the importer that it is not GM food to avoid testing of imported GM food; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, year-wise and product-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) 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. The existing legal and administrative provisions governing the entry of GM food into the country is adequate.