

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4078
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
BIOSAFETY RESEARCH
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any budgetary allocation atleast to the tune of 25 per cent of the biotechnology budgets have been put aside for biosafety research related to Genetically Modified Organisms in farming;
- (b) if so, the allocation and utilisation thereof;
- (c) whether the Department of Biotechnology has taken up any projects for independent research on biosafety claims of private crop developers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the funds made available by the Department for such projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (S. JAYAPAL REDDY)

- (a) No, Madam.
- (b) No specific fund is earmarked and allocated for biosafety research related to Genetically- Modified Organisms in farming. Allocation of fund for biosafety research is done on case- by-case basis.
- (c) Biosafety claims of private crop developers are examined by statutory committees such as Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) constituted under Rules 1989 of Environment Protection Act 1986. These Committees consisting of inter-ministerial representatives and multi- disciplinary experts scrutinize the claims in accordance with biosafety guidelines and protocols for comprehensive food, animal, and environmental safety.
- (d) Does not arise.