

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1985

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

FIELD TRIALS OF GM CROPS

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

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has cleared field trials for Genetically Modified (GM) crops such as rice, wheat, maize and castor oil etc. plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether clearances of field trials for a number of crops are pending with the GEAC and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether several States have expressed their resentments in the field trials of the said GM crops and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Committee to the resentment expressed by the States; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes Madam. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has approved experimental field trials for the purpose of generating biosafety data in respect of GM crops such as cotton, rice, castor, wheat, maize, tomato, groundnut, potato, sorghum, okra, brinjal, mustard, watermelon, papaya, sugarcane, rubber, banana, pigeon pea, Artemisia annua L. and chickpea.

(c) Currently 79 applications covering 11 crops namely, cotton, rice, castor, maize, wheat, sugarcane, brinjal, potato, chickpea, mustard and sorghum are pending with the GEAC. Out of the 79 applications, 24 are awaiting NOC from the State Governments and the remaining 55 are yet to be considered by the GEAC.

(d)&(e) In view of the objections received from some of the State Governments regarding GM crop field trials in their State, the GEAC in its meeting held on 6.7.2011 decided to direct the applicants to obtain NOC from the State Government in the first instance before issuance of the approval letter.