

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3954
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that farmers go into more debt since signing initial contracts with Monsanto for crop packages` relating to genetically modified seeds like Bt. cotton, that require a companion herbicide for best results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the farmers have to buy expensive seeds each year as it is a breach of contract with Monsanto to save seeds and as a result, farmers had to resort to taking loans for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

- (a): No such report has been received from any cotton growing states.
- (b): Question does not arise.
- (c) & (d): The seeds of hybrid varieties of all crops are required to be purchased every year to obtain higher yield. More than 30 to 35 private seed companies are producing and marketing Bt. Cotton seed. The seed cost of Bt. Cotton hybrids are determined by the respective State Governments before every crop season.