

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1898

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009

BT. SEEDS CROPS

Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to allow cultivation of Bt. crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has approved the commercial cultivation of several Bt cotton hybrids expressing Cry 1 Ac gene (MON 531 event) and stacked genes Cry 1 Ac and Cry 2AB (MON 15985 event)-Bollgard – II developed by M/s Mahyco, encoding fusion genes (cry 1Ab+Cry AC) GFM developed by M/s Nath Seeds, cry 1Ac gene (Event-1) developed by M/s J.K.Agric Genetics Ltd; Cry 1AC gene (Dharwad event) developed by Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) and Cry 1C (event 9124) developed by M/s Metahelix Live Sciences. The GEAC in its 97th meeting held on 14-10-2009 has recommended to the Government that Bt brinjal is safe for environment alrelease taking into consideration the findings of the review by three high level technical Committees namely; the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulations and two Expert Committees constituted by the GEAC in 2006 and 2009. The decision of the GEAC on the safety of Bt brinjal for environmental release is based on scientific facts/data generated during 2002-2009 and international experience with GM crops. As the Ministry of Environment and Forests has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from the various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, that Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the various stakeholders before a final view on the commercialization of Bt brinjal is taken.

(c): Does not arise.