

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2898  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2009  
MUTANT SEEDS  
Rathod Shri Ramesh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India has developed 37 mutant varieties of seeds for commercial cultivation using nuclear techniques and radiation technology for food preservation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds earmarked and utilised for research in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): A number of crop varieties have been developed in the country using nuclear techniques in various crops including rice, millets, chickpea, pigeonpea, mungbean, urdbean, rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, sunflower, soybean, jute and cotton. Research in the field of radiation technology applied to agriculture and food processing has contributed towards extending the shelf life of certain vegetables and fruits. Processing with low dose radiation has helped in inhibiting sprouting in onion, potato, ginger, garlic and yam; insect disinfestations of cereals, pulses, spices and dry fruits, and making meat and meat products pathogen free.
- (c) Overall budgetary support for the development of new varieties and research on post-harvest processing is met from the Plan and Non-Plan funds. No separate fund is specifically earmarked for these programmes.