

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:795  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009  
BT. COTTON SEEDS  
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

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

- (a) whether non-licensed BT. Cotton seeds are available in the market in large quantities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are reports that such BT. Cotton seeds do not germinate as a result of which farmers have to suffer heavy losses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the supply of such seeds to the farmers;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken against the producers/suppliers of such seeds?

**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) to (g): There are no reports regarding sale of non-licensed Bt. Cotton seeds from the states. The enforcement of quality control on seeds including Bt. Cotton seeds is vested with the State Governments. Only Bt. Cotton hybrids/ varieties seeds, duly approved by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment and Forests, are allowed for commercial cultivation. All Bt. Cotton growing States have been advised to remain vigilant to ensure sale of genuine seeds by regularly drawing and testing seeds samples from the suppliers and dealers. Wide publicity regarding the need to purchase seed with cash memo with details of name of the Bt. Cotton seed, lot number and permit number is being given to create awareness among the farmers. Financial assistance has been provided to the states to strengthen seed testing laboratories to test Bt. Cotton seeds.