

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1171

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

BIO TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a Bio-technology policy to cope with new changed environment of the agriculture sector as well as health sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering any support or collaboration from foreign countries in this regard;
- (d) the details of the agricultural products on which bio-technological research is being conducted in the country and the results achieved so far;
- (e) the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
- (f) the details of the agricultural products which are being commercialized so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The bio-technology policy in the new changed environment covers agriculture and health-care sector emphasizing sustainable agriculture by achieving higher productivity and better quality food with reduced resource inputs and clinical bioinformatics units in strategic locations across the country to achieve good health.

(c) At present we are not considering any support/ collaboration.

(d) National Agricultural Research System comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Central and State Agricultural Universities are involved in developing transgenic rice, sorghum, watermelon, tomato, papaya, sugarcane, groundnut, mustard, brinjal, castor and potato for various economically important traits.

Employing marker assisted selection bacterial leaf blight resistant rice varieties like Improved Pusa Basmati 1, Improved Samba Mahsuri, Improved Lalat; submergence tolerant Swarna Sub-1 and quality protein maize Vivek QPM 9 have been developed.

(e) The major accomplishments are chromosome-based draft sequence of the bread wheat genome, whole genome sequence of pigeonpea and chickpea, sequencing of long arm of tomato chromosome 5, flax transcriptome sequence have been completed. Gene specific molecular markers have been employed to develop lipoxygenase-free soybean genotypes NRC 109 and NRC 110.

(f) Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercialization in India since 2002 after extensive evaluation and regulatory process.