

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:105

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

FIELD TRIALS OF GM CROPS

Chaudhury Shri Jitendra;Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms /guidelines regulating field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops;
- (b) the present status of field trials of 13 GM food crops including mustard and brinjal;
- (c) the details of crops subjected to GM field trials and the organizations/States involved therein;
- (d) whether certain States/ agencies/ experts have expressed their reservations over introduction and field trials of GM crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto including the steps taken to address their objections / concerns?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 105 BY SHRI MD BADARUDDOZA KHAN AND SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY REGARDING FIELD TRIALS OF GM CROPS DUE FOR REPLY ON 3.03.2015

(a) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex body notified under "Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989" is following a case by case assessment of GM crops including experimental field trials for generating biosafety data. All GM cropfield trials are carried out in confined conditions in accordance with the "Guidelines and Safe Operating Practices (SOPs) for the conduct of Confined Field Trials of Transgenic Plant, 2008" and subjected to stringent safety norms which include

- (i) maintaining a crop specific isolation distance from the periphery of the experimental site;
- (ii) maintaining a biological and physical barrier all around the experimental plot;
- (iii) post-harvest restrictions
- (iv) submission of a validated event specific test protocol; and

(v) designating a lead scientist responsible for ensuring compliance. The field trials are also monitored by a Central Compliance Committee specifically constituted by the Review Committee for Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the GEAC for monitoring each trial. The Central Compliance Committee consist of multi-disciplinary experts as well as representatives from RCGM, GEAC, State Agriculture Departments and State Agriculture Universities.

(b-c) The twelve GM crops approved by the GEAC during March, 2013 to July, 2014 for conducting confined field trials include cotton, rice, castor, wheat, maize, groundnut, potato, sorghum, brinjal, mustard, sugarcane, and chickpea. The approval is subject to obtaining NOC from the respective State Governments where the trials would be conducted. Current status of GM crop field trials are annexed at Annexure-I.

(d-e) The State Governments of Kerala, Bihar, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have informed that the GM crops field trials will not be allowed in their State. Subsequently, the GEAC in its meeting held on 06.07.2011 has decided that all applicants would be required to obtain NOC from the State Governments in the first instance before issuance of approval letter for conduct of field trials.