

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2209
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
GM CROPS
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allowed any Genetically Modified (GM) crops for cultivation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the modalities, guidelines and norms chalked out by the Government to check, monitor and reduce the percolation of GM crops in Indian Agriculture scenario; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to reduce dependence of Indian farming sector on international brands and Multinational Companies dealing with GM crops?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Madam. Bt. Cotton is the only Genetically Modified Crop allowed for commercial cultivation in the country.
- (b): After extensive evaluation and satisfying all regulatory requirements as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules 1989, issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. GEAC found Bt. Cotton to be suitable for release for commercial cultivation in the country in 2002.

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has allowed commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton in nine major cotton growing states viz. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- (c): Under the provisions of Section 7-11 Under Rules 1989, no person shall import, export, transport, Manufacture use or sell of any GM material including GM seeds without the prior approval of GEAC. To ensure compliance, section 4 (4 and 5) of Rules 1989 provides for constitution of two Committees of State level namely;
 - (i) State Biotechnology Co-ordination Committee (SBCC) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary and
 - (ii) District Level Committee (DLC). These committees are empowered to inspect, investigate and take punitive action in case of violation.

Vide Gazette Notification GSR 584 (E), 586 (E), 588 (E) and 589 (E) dated 1st September, 2006, issued by MoEF&CC; the seed inspectors, seed analysts and laboratories notified under the Seed Act, 1966 and Seed Control Order, 1983 have been empowered to check, seize and enforce seed law for GM seeds under EPA 1986.

In addition, the Plant Quarantine Order 2003, the Foreign Trade Policy Notification No.2 (RE-2006)/2004-2009, dated 7th April, 2006 notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Customs Act, 1962 are other regulations meant to prevent any illegal or unapproved use of GM seeds or crops in the country.

- (d): ICAR launched a Plan Scheme entitled 'Network Project on Transgenics in Crops (NTPC)' for research on GM crops in the XI five year plan with any outlay of Rs.5645.61 lakh and this is continuing in the XII plan period. A total of 31 different projects on transgenic development and 22 different projects on functional genomics have been undertaken under this programme.

There, it will help in developing transgenic crops under the public research system reducing dependence on private players.