

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1339
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
PRODUCTION OF BT. BRINJAL
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the present status of production of Bt. Brinjal;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Bt. Brinjal jeopardise the human body as pests are used blindly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any body which had gone into the whole issue involving Bt. Cotton since its start; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

- (a): The Government has imposed a moratorium on 09.02.2010 on commercialization of Bt. Brinjal till such time as independent scientific studies establish that Bt. Brinjal is safe for the environment and human health.
- (b) & (c): Question does not arise.
- (d): Under Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organism, genetically engineered organism or cells, 1989, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change examined and conveyed approval for production of Bt. Cotton. The GEAC supervises the implementation of the terms and conditions laid down in connection with the approval accorded by it through the State Biotechnology Coordination Committee or the State Pollution Control Board/District Level Committees etc. from time to time.
- (e): Following the above mandate, no adverse effect of Bt. Cotton has been reported.