

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3627
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014
GM CROPS
Charitra Shri Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some prominent social groups, working on organic farming have strongly opposed the promotion of genetically modified crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether scientific evidence indicate the adverse effects of GM crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Some social groups, including Sunray Harvesters, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture. Navdanya and Gene Campaign have opposed the promotion of genetically modified crops in the country.

(c) to (e): There is no credible scientific evidence proving that GM crops have adverse impact on the environment, human health and livestock. Twenty seven countries including USA, Brazil, Argentina, India, Canada and China cultivated twenty five GM crops including Soyabean, Cotton, Maize, Canola, Papaya and Tomato on a total area of 175.2 million hectare in 2013. Government of India is following a policy of case by case approval of genetically modified (GM) crops. A GM crop is approved for commercial cultivation after a thorough evaluation of its bio-safety & agronomic performance by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under Department of Biotechnology (DBT) & Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate change (MOEF&CC)