

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 5

Date : 24-08-2005

Participants : Purandareswari Smt. Daggubati

>

Title : Need to safeguard the interest of the country from Patenting of Rice by Certain Foreign Companies.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (BAPATLA): Sir, I apologise for not being present when you called me.

Sir, Swiss biotech giant Syngenta is trying to have a monopoly control over rice seeking global patents over thousands of gene sequences. It claims to have discovered that a single grain of rice contains 37,544 genes, roughly one-fourth more genes than in a human body.

These patents have been filed before the European Patent Office, US Patent and Trademark Office and World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation. If conceded, it will have serious consequences for India and Third World countries. All patent applications need proper scrutiny and India should fight back to safeguard her interests. Needless to mention that under Indian Patent laws, genes are not patentable.

Sometime back Monsanto made similar inroads into our cotton cultivation by claiming a trait value of Rs.1250 per packet of 400 grams of Bt Cotton seeds in addition to its normal value and fleecing our cotton cultivators.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप लोगो ने एक लाइन में ही तय कर लिया था कि लेट जाना है।