

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.958**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

**USE OF RADIATION IN AGRICULTURE**

958. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether use of radiation in agriculture has resulted in developing improved varieties of seeds and this has increased the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country;
- (b) how many varieties of seeds have been improved by the Department using this technology;
- (c) whether these seeds have any hazardous effect on the human health; and
- (d) if so, what precautions are being taken to avoid these health hazards which may occur by use of radiation for improved seeds?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES &  
PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

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- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Using radiation induced mutagenesis technology, Department of Atomic Energy has developed 42 varieties in oilseeds (groundnut, mustard, soyabean and sunflower), pulses (urdbean, mungbean, pigeonpea, cowpea), rice and jute, which have been released and notified for commercial cultivation across the country.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

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