

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1512**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

**Approval of GM crops**

1512. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the procedure for approval of GM crops;
- (b) whether Government has made any changes to the bio-safety rules for the approval of GM crops during the last three years; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up a Bio-safety Regulatory Authority of India?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) Genetically Engineered (GE) products are governed by “Rules for the Manufacture / Use / Import / Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells”, 1989 (Rules 1989) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Rules are implemented through six Competent Authorities namely Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RDAC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC), District Level Committee (DLC). The approval for each GM crop is given on a case to case basis after detailed examination including health, food and environmental safety assessment studies as per applicable guidelines, manuals and standard operating procedures (SOPs) stipulated from time to time by regulatory agencies.

(b) Government has not made any changes to the bio-safety rules for the approval of GM crops during the last three years.

(c) Setting up of Regulatory Authorities is an ongoing process and these are set up from time to time based on necessity and due approvals from Competent Authorities. Bio-safety Regulatory Authority has not been approved as yet.

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