

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3397**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

**Policy on GMOs**

3397. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA:

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

- (a) the Government's policy on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- (b) whether Government plans to join 17 of the 20 most developed countries by not growing GMOs at all, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) number of field trials done till now in a closed environment for GMOs;
- (d) whether Government plans to make the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) free of bureaucrats and induct non-Government experts to avoid conflict of interest; and
- (e) reasons as to why GM mustard was approved by GEAC despite the fact that the matter is pending with Hon'ble Supreme Court?

**ANSWER**

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

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) & (b) In India, there is a well-established regulatory framework for approval of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as per “Rules for the Manufacture / Use / Import/ Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells”, 1989 (Rules 1989) established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Evaluation of each application of GMO is done on a case-to-case basis after a thorough examination of health, environment, food and feed safety assessment studies undertaken in a systematic and scientific manner as per prescribed guidelines, manuals and standard operating procedures stipulated by various regulatory agencies from time to time. The data generated by the applicants is reviewed at every step in the development process of GM crops by various statutory committees, such as Institutional Biosafety Committee, Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

Similarly, each of the nearly 70 countries which either grow or import and consume GMOs, have specific polices/ regulations to govern these activities. Several developed countries which do not grow GMOs, allow their import and consumption.

- (c) Approximately hundred confined field trials on GM crops have been approved by the Government.

- (d) The composition of GEAC has been defined in Section 4 of Rules 1989. The GEAC is chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and co-chaired by a nominee of Department of Biotechnology. The Co-chair has always been a renowned scientist. The members of GEAC include ex-officio experts, as well as many independent experts.
- (e) GM Mustard has not been approved by the Government.

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