

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTIONNO.1805
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

Ban on use of GM seeds

1805. SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA

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

- (a) whether Government has imposed ban on the use of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds of various crops including pulses, food grains, cotton and other agro products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the stand of Government on banning of Genetically Modified seeds in the country and the details thereof; and
- (d) the effective steps taken by Government to impose ban on Multi National Companies selling GM seeds and cultivation of GM crops to ensure the growth and production of indigenous varieties of food grains, pulses and other agro produces in the country and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved in 2002 by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial cultivation in the Country.
- (d) All States/Union Territories (UTs) have been directed to constitute and strengthen State/UT Biotechnology Coordination Committees and District Level Committees for monitoring instances of illegal supply and illegal cultivation of GM crops for taking appropriate action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Further, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued advisories to States to take appropriate necessary action to curb and control the spread of unapproved GM crops.

Also State Governments have given the directions to all District Administration to take necessary legal steps to curb the production and selling of illegal GM crops for farming.

In addition, the Seed Inspector notified under Section, 13 of the Seeds Act, 1966 and under Clause 12 of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 are empowered under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to draw the seed samples of GM seeds and to test in the notified seed testing laboratories in case of sale of prohibited GM seeds.

As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in order to ensure the growth and production of indigenous varieties of food grains, pulses and other agro produce in the country, Indian Council of Agricultural Research is developing high yielding and multi stress tolerant varieties of different crop including cereals, millet, pulses, oilseeds and fruits suited to different agro-climatic condition. In the last seven years, 1656 improved varieties have been developed out of which 798 are of cereals, 252 are of oilseeds, 250 are of pulses, 189 are of fiber crops, 104 are of forage crops, 54 are of sugarcane and 10 are of under-utilized crops.

In addition, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare provides assistance/subsidy for seed production and distribution under various existing Schemes/ Programmes viz. Sub- Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials, National Food Security Mission, National Food Security Mission – Oilseeds and Oil palm and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.
