

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3095
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

Commercial Release of GM Mustard

3095. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:
SHRI B.V. NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently put off a decision on commercial release of Genetically Modified (GM) Mustard amid strong reservation expressed against the use of transgenic variety of oilseeds unless a detailed study is conducted on its safety aspects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted fresh round of consultations with environment groups, scientists, activist bodies and farmers in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the State Governments are consulted before granting approval of commercial cultivation of genetically modified crops and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) &(b) The application related to environmental release of transgenic Mustard was recommended by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in its 133rd meeting held on May 11, 2017. However, pursuant to receipt of various representations from different stakeholders, the Government has referred the application back to GEAC for further examination in October 2017
- (c) Pursuant to the decision taken by Government on transgenic Mustard in October 2017, no fresh round of consultations have been conducted with any stakeholder groups.
- (d) Decision regarding commercial release of genetically modified crops is governed in accordance with the “Rules for the Manufacture / Use / Import/ Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells”, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, No Objection Certificate from the State Department of Agriculture is required for conduct of any confined field trial in that particular State.
