

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3170
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

Genetically Modified Crops

3170. ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:
SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

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

- (a) The norms/guidelines regulating field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops along with the total number of GM crops under consideration of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee indicating their present status of field trials and names of organizations/States involved therein, crop-wise including Mustard and Brinjal;
- (b) whether certain States/agencies/ experts have expressed their reservation over introduction and field trials of GM crops, if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to address their objections/ concerns;
- (c) whether the Government has found any evidence against GM crops in terms of destruction of local varieties therein and if so, the details thereof along with the details of scientific evidence relating to health hazards of such crops noticed so far; and
- (d) whether the Government is reviewing the regulatory framework for GM crops and if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to manage the prospects and effects relating to the cultivation of GM crops?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Confined Field Trials (CFTs) of genetically modified crops are conducted 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, and “Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for CFTs of Genetically Engineered Plants”, 2008, developed jointly by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Department of Biotechnology.

Presently, there are 16 trials of genetically modified crops under consideration of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee for various stages of testing, namely, Event Selection Trials (ESTs), Biosafety Research Level (BRL)- I and BRL-II. ESTs on Chickpea, Pigeon pea, Rice, Sugarcane, Wheat, Cotton and Brinjal are being undertaken by ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Bioseed Research India Pvt.

Ltd, ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Pvt. Ltd and Global Transgenes Ltd. BRL-I trials on Maize, Rubber and Chickpea are being undertaken by Monsanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd, Pioneer Hi-Bred Pvt. Ltd, Dow Agro Sciences Pvt. Ltd, Rubber Research Institute and Sungro Seeds Ltd. BRL-II trials on Cotton and Brinjal are being undertaken by Bayer Biosciences Pvt. Ltd, Dow Agro Sciences Pvt. Ltd and Beej Sheetal Pvt. Ltd

- (b) Some State Governments such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and some experts have expressed their reservations over introduction and field trials of genetically modified crops. Towards enhancing awareness and capacity building on the matter, the Government organizes workshops for different stakeholders including State level functionaries, Customs, Plant Quarantine officials, farmers etc., along with dissemination of knowledge products in various regional languages.
- (c) The Government has not received any adverse report regarding destruction of local varieties by or health hazards of genetically modified crops.
- (d) The Government has a well laid policy regarding genetically modified crops framed under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
