

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5063
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH MARCH, 2018

IMPACT OF MERGING OF BAYER AND MONSANTO ON FARMING

5063. DR. NARAMALLI SIVA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the situation with respect to the merger of Bayer and Monsanto and its implications on India's farming apart from what the Competition Commission of India (CCI) can do in its limited jurisdiction and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is going to handle the issue of intellectual property in the merger, so that either through patents or plant breeder rights held by these companies, access to and prices of technological innovations are regulated and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government and the agriculture department in the State have been duly informed about the mega merger and the likely impact on farmers in their State and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether two weeks is too short a period for farmer groups to make submissions to CCI on one of the biggest mergers of companies in the agriculture sector in India, if so, the necessary steps taken by the Government to open up the process and hold public hearings on the subjects; and

(e) whether the public sector including ICAR's research institutes is preparing to provide alternatives to the products developed by the corporate sector and if so, the details thereof

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has received notice on 07.08.2017 from Bayer in relation to the proposed acquisition of entire shareholding of Monsanto Company by Bayer.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has discussed with CCI and certain information has been provided to CCI. However the issue related to patent will be handled as per existing provision of Patents Act 1970.

(e): ICAR and other commodity-based Indian Research Institutes are developing technologies meeting the requirements as alternative of the products developed by corporate sector.
