

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1647**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

**GM Foods**

1647. DR. K. GOPAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has been contemplating a system for labelling Genetically Modified (GM) foods for at least two years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the current laws, prohibit any GM foods unless cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per a 2007 Notification, the Government had exempted processed foods from this requirement; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides for consolidating the laws relating to food and establishing the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Draft “Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018”, which include a provision for labelling of genetically modified(GM) foods, was uploaded byFSSAI on the website for suggestions, views and comments from stakeholders.
- (b) (c) & (d) In India, regulation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products derived from GMOs, including GM foods, are covered under the Rules for manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/ genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 (Rules 1989) under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

After setting up of FSSAI in 2006, the Government issued a notification under Rules 1989 in 2007, exempting GM processed food, ingredients, additives and processing aids from the purview of Rule 11 of the Rules, 1989 provided the end product is not a Living Modified Organism.

\*\*\*\*\*