

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 922
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

Field Trials of Genetically Modified Brinjal and Mustard

922. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has put on hold the decision of field trials of GM-Brinjal since 2009 and GM-Mustard since 2018 despite having no scientific evidence to prove that these crops are unsafe;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepares a road map for conducting field trials and for further introduction of transgenic crops in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) and (b) Stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding health and environment safety of Genetically Modified (GM) Brinjal and GM Mustard. Hence, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has recommended additional studies regarding impact on environment, health, risk to local varieties etc.
- (c) and (d) GEAC is a regulator and discharges its responsibilities regarding environmental release of GM crops based on scientific evidence. All applicants interested in introducing GM crops have to undertake elaborate food, feed and environmental safety assessment following regulatory guidelines and standard operating procedures under Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, before environment release for cultivation.
