

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3928  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> March, 2021**

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD**

**3928. SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:  
SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for monitoring Genetic Modified Organisms (GMO) import in the country in last three years;
- (b) the details of the cases of illegal import of GMO and illegal sale of Genetically Modified Food in the country in last three years;
- (c) the measures taken to penalize the offenders and to check such practices;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any initiative to study the impact of GMO on human health; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that permission for Genetically Modified (GM) crops has to be granted by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules thereunder.

Further, FSSAI has issued orders on 21.08.2020 that every imported consignment of 24 food crops listed in the said order shall be accompanied with a Non-GM origin-cum GM free Certificate issued by Competent National Authority of the exporting country. It has been subsequently clarified that this order is applicable to consignments of specified food crops despatched from exporting country on or after 1st March, 2021. A tolerance limit for adventitious presence of GMOs at 1% is permissible in imported food crop consignments covered under the said Order.

Instances of sale/supply of labelled genetically modified (GM) food came to the notice of FSSAI through survey report titled 'qPCR-based Detection of Genetically Modified Processed Foods in India' by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

On receipt of survey report, FSSAI issued notices in the month of August, 2018 to the concerned Food Business Operators.

Food Business Operators responded that their products did not contain any GM ingredients and also supported their claim by providing test reports from NABL accredited labs.

Further, GEAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has informed that provision to ban the prohibited genetically modified seeds is available in the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The Seed Inspector notified under Section 13 of the Seeds Act, 1966 and under Clause 12 of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 is empowered under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to draw the GM seed samples and to test in the notified testing laboratories in case of sale of prohibited GM seeds. DNA fingerprinting and Transgenic Crop Monitoring Lab, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic resources, New Delhi, Export Inspection Agency, Kochi, Plant Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali are notified as a National referral Laboratory for detecting GM seeds. ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur is a referral laboratory for detecting *Bt*. Cotton.