

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1350
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH JULY, 2021

IMPACT OF UNAPPROVED GM COTTON

1350. DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE कृषि एवम किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- a) whether thousands of cotton farmers have been risking their crops by sowing unapproved GM cotton for the last few years and if so, the details thereof;
- b) whether GM crops have the potential to reduce the ecological footprint and costs, and improve farmers' income and competitiveness of Indian agriculture, particularly in cotton, maize, and soybean; and
- c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the outcomes achieved thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE

कृषि एवम किसान कल्याण मंत्री SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton is not approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), working under Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. As per media report, cultivation of unapproved Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton is reported in some states of the country. This Department has issued several advisories to states for control of sale/production/ storage and further spread of HT Cotton in the state. However, No state has reported risking farmers' crops by sowing unapproved GM cotton.

(b)& (c): GM crop gives an advantage by reducing the loss to crop, due to the pest infestation and weeds. The numbers of sprays of pesticide are reduced and the input cost on farm labour is also reduced which gives an advantage in enhancing the crop productivity & production. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), under Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has been established by the Government for evaluating the data for approval of genetically modified crop for commercial release. Bt. Cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop approved for commercial cultivation in India by GEAC.
