

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3020
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021

Cultivation of GM Wheat and Rice

3020. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is in favour of approving commercial cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) wheat and rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry has adequate information and data regarding safety tests of GM wheat and rice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES**

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b) Government has been supporting application of biotechnology tools in the area of Agriculture and allied sectors. The research and development activities are supported for the genetic improvement of traits of interest in wheat and rice using different technologies.

The commercial cultivation of GM crops requires clearance from Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as per Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export & storage of hazardous microorganisms, GE organisms or cells, 1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) & (d) The regulatory assessment of the Genetically Modified (GM) crops for commercial cultivation is considered on a case by case basis and involves examination of the data generated in the confined field trials, food & feed safety studies etc. Following guidance documents on requirement of data generation have been developed:

- i. Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants, 2008
- ii. Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Confined Field Trials of Regulated, Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, 2008
- iii. Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants (2016)

For each case which is considered by the committee, data is generated and examined based on above guidelines.
