

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3824**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2021

**HIGH-YIELDING RICE VARIETIES**

3824. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that resilient and high-yield rice varieties would be available by the year 2024 developed by using gene editing techniques;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the gene-editing guidelines are facing delay in the country;
- (d) whether it is also true that a proposal from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is pending with an appraisal committee for almost two years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

**(a) and (b):** Rice varieties MTU1010, Swarna, Naveen and HKR127 have been edited for specific genes for drought and salt stress tolerance; and high yield. These new lines are at the stage of laboratory evaluation. For their release as new varieties, three years of field evaluation trial at multiple locations is required.

**(c) to (e):** The draft "*Guidelines for Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants*" is presently before Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for consideration.

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