

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 263
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th July, 2022

NEW STRAIN OF RICE

263. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

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

- (a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is developing a drought-tolerant, salinity-tolerant rice strain;
- (b) if so, the details of the budget for the same;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this is being done through a new gene editing technology which does not have regulatory approval yet;
- (d) if so, the time by which the regulatory approval is expected and the steps taken by the Government to expedite the same; and
- (e) the time by which the Government estimates that the new variety will be available in the market?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Budget sanctioned for Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is Rs. 98.05 lakhs.

(c) & (d): Yes, this work is done through CRISPR-Cas9 mediated Genome Editing technology. The research work is carried out with the approval of Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) constituted by Department of Biotechnology (DBT) Government of India as per Rules 1989 under Environment (protection) Act 1986.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide its OM F. No. C-12013/3/2020-CS-III, dated 30th March, 2022 has exempted the Genome Edited plants in the categories of SDN1 and SDN2, which are free of exogenously introduced DNA, from the provisions of Rules 7-11 (both inclusive) of the Rules 1989.

Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India has notified "Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022" vide OM File No. PID-15011/1/2022-PPB-DBT dated 17.5.2022.

(e): Genome edited lines is expected to be available for field evaluation by Kharif 2024 and for general cultivation during 2026 after two years of field testing.
