

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 689
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026

GENOME-EDITED RICE VARIETIES

689. SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to publish the detailed study reports of both the approved genome-edited rice varieties, namely DRR Dhan-100 (IET 32042) and Pusa DST Rice1 (IET 32043) to make publish their test results, toxicological and allergenicity data;
- (b) whether the extant laws, testing protocols and regulatory framework are adequate to ensure safety, health impacts and consumer interests with regard to genome-edited rice varieties and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there areas cross contamination attributed to the varieties of genome-edited rice approved in India and if so, the main factors responsible for it; and
- (d) whether the Government has formulated or adopted any concrete policy for the protection of farmers' rights and seed sovereignty and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes, the performance evaluation results of the two genome edited rice varieties (DRR Dhan-100 and Pusa DST Rice-1) are available on the website of All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice (AICRPR) intranet site (<http://www.aicrip-intranet.in/>). Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India exempted the Site-Directed Nuclease-1 (SDN1) and Site-Directed Nuclease-2 (SDN2) genome edited crop free of exogenous introduced DNA from GM regulation rules (Rules 7-11 of Rules 1989) vide OM

F.NO. C-12013/3/2020-CS-III dated 30 March, 2022. Further, the Biosafety issues have been addressed following the 'Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Genome Edited Plants, 2022' of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India issued vide OM No. File No. PID-15011/1/2022-PPB-DBT dated 17.05.2022 and "Standard Operating Procedures for Regulatory Review of Genome Edited Plants under SDN-1 and SDN-2 Categories" vide OM No. File No. PID-15011/1/2022-PPB-DBT dated 04.10.2022. Information as per regulatory disclosure norms is placed in the public domain through officially recorded minutes of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) meetings (<https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/Content/DecisionDocs>).

(c): Rice is predominantly a self-pollinated crop with very low natural out-crossing rate. Standard seed production, isolation distance and genetic purity protocols applicable to all rice varieties are followed to maintain varietal integrity. Hence, currently there is no evidence of cross-contamination attributed specifically to approved genome-edited rice varieties.

(d): The Government has taken concrete steps to safeguard farmers' rights and seed sovereignty through Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act 2001. Genome-edited varieties are governed by the same farmer-centric principles, to save and reuse seeds across generations.
