

[18 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government propose to conduct initial trials on genetically modified crops;

(b) if so, the details of those crops which are under trials;

(c) whether Government have studied the success of these crops in other countries, before beginning such cultivation in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) by when these crops are likely to be introduced in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir, to assess the environmental safety, taking also into account safety to human and animal health. Government is permitting the conduct of trials under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Genetically Modified Crops of cotton, tobacco, tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, mustard and potato are being tested in Indian environment.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, information on many crops is available. Any trial in Indian environment requires the assessment of the risks from the available information. No open field trial is authorized before the information is evaluated, and the materials are tested in laboratory and contained Green House conditions for generating additional safety information.

(e) Only after the Government is satisfied about the biosafety and agronomic advantage of genetically modified (G.M) crops, such crops can be permitted to be introduced. No GM crop has yet been commercially introduced in the country.

Central Ethical Committee for Sports

2942. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the match fixing and other unethical practices in sports, Government propose to set up a Central Ethical Committee for sports,

to prevent unethical practices in games; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promoting Rural Athletes

† 2943. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many village the sport facilities like arenas, sports grounds, ponds and coaches are available;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to appoint coaches in villages where they are not available; and

(c) whether Government have launched any scheme in order to encourage the rural athletics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) "Sports' is a State subject and it is a primarily responsibility of the State Government to create sports facilities in all areas including rural area. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, the Central Government do provides financial assistance on matching basis, subject to prescribed ceilings, to them for creation of sports facilities under the schemes of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. One time financial assistance, without matching contribution, of up to Rs. 1.50 lakh is also provided to rural schools for development of playfield and purchase of sports equipments under the scheme of Grants to Rural Schools.

(b) The Sports Authority of India provides the services of its coaches to State Coaching Centres (SCCs) and District Coaching Centres (DCCs) in each

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.