

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	17th January, 2012	Odisha	1	0.11	5.87
4.	28th January, 2012	Tripura	1	0.06	1.20
5.	4th February, 2012	Odisha	1	0.38	2.86
6.	15th March, 2012	Tripura	1	0.05	0.09
*7.	28th April, 2012	Tripura	1	0.02	0.72
TOTAL			7	1.01	43.34

* This is a new outbreak reported on 28th April, 2012. The figures are upto 6th May, 2012. The control and containment operation is going on.

Cooperative farming

†3892. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched any scheme to promote cooperative farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) 'Cooperation' being a State subject, the States are expected to take necessary steps to promote cooperative farming. However, in view of importance of cooperatives, the National Policy for Farmers, which was formulated after consultation with the States, provides for encouraging and supporting small farmers' cooperatives to take up activities such as processing, value addition and marketing of agri products, formation of Farmers Groups; Joint Liability Groups; etc., which has helped in strengthening the cooperative sector thus benefitting farmers. Many schemes of the Government of India, such as Centrally Sponsored scheme on National Horticulture Mission. Central Sector

Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Rural Godown Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, etc. inter-alia support the cooperative institutions for promotion of agriculture.

Bio-safety for transgenic crops

3893. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR which backs the entry of GM crops in the country has any independent and own conclusive evidence of bio-safety of transgenic crops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989, provide for setting up Institutional Bio Safety Committees in research institutions handling microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms. ICAR has constituted such committees where required.

Under these rules, certain protocols have been developed to make safety assessments of foods and livestock feeds that may be derived from genetically engineered crops.

The results of these studies are submitted to the appropriate regulatory bodies namely the Review Committee of Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) and the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). GEAC takes these studies into account while considering proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products.

ICAR generates the data required on food, feed and environmental risk analysis. ICAR also follows the quarantine requirements, if and as required.

Apart from this, independent laboratories also carry out assessments of the human health safety of foods derived from genetically engineered plants, as per ICMR guidelines for the safety assessment.

Integrated farming system

3894. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: