

way of assuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) that helps the farmers to receive adequate returns on their investment.

**Monitoring mechanism for research and testing of GM crops**

†471. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to develop a special monitoring mechanism for research and testing of GM crops;

(b) whether Government has received any suggestion or recommendations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken, so far, by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Presently, field trials of GM crops are monitored by the Central Compliance Committee (CCC) constituted by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)/Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) as per the 'Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the conduct of confined Field Trials of Transgenic Plant, 2008'.

(b) and (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture recommended stopping of GM trials till the regulatory system is strengthened. The Technical Expert Committee (TEC) constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court suggested 10 year moratorium on field trials of Bt. GM in its interim report in accordance with the precautionary principle in all food crops (used directly for human consumption). The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to Prime Minister, however, asked for continuity of trials by reviewing the existing processes and protocols being followed in India as acceptable and recommended certain steps to further make the regulatory system more vibrant. The Government, in its affidavit, has prayed for rejection of the proposed recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and TEC recommendations/suggestions.

(d) The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) bill is under

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

consideration of Parliament which may provide a comprehensive system covering all the aspects of GM crops.

### **Implementation of RKVY**

472. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme called the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been implemented and the purposes thereof;

(b) the total amount allocated and released for Maharashtra under RKVY, project-wise; and

(c) the details of total utilization of funds and results achieved in the State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched in August, 2007 with the objective to incentivize the State to increase investment in agriculture and allied sectors to achieve 4% growth in this sector. The scheme provides flexibility and autonomy to the State Governments to select, plan, approve and execute projects/components that are most suited to the agro-climatic conditions and priorities of the State as per their District Agriculture Plan.

(b) and (c) Government of India does not earmark project-wise allocation under the scheme. The funds allocated and released to Maharashtra under the scheme and utilization reported by the State is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Release	Utilization
2007-08	142.20	128.20	128.20
2008-09	269.63	261.77	261.77
2009-10	407.24	404.39	404.39
2010-11	653.00	653.00	653.00
2011-12	727.67	735.44	735.44
2012-13 (As on 22.02.2013)	1050.81	891.56	420.06