

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests has so far granted permission to four hybrids of Bt. Cotton for commercial cultivation in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. There have been some reports of production of spurious Bt. Cotton Seeds in a few States. The State Governments have been advised to take appropriate action against producers of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the seeds legislation.

Quality and production difference from trial stage

†508. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research work in the field of agriculture made by the research institutions of the country are used by themselves at their own farms;

(b) if so, whether farmers are getting the same quality and production in terms of quantity in their fields which is assessed at the time of trial farming of the same;

(c) if not, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) to what extent the average percentage of production is less?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The agricultural research institutions develop technology and test it at their own farms for its suitability before recommending for large scale adoption by the farmers.

(b) and (c) Farmers can ideally get the same quality and quantity of produce as generated in research farm provided they follow the recommended technology package in totality. In actual field conditions the productivity and production differ from that generated at the research farms because of varying growing conditions and input use.

(d) Because of the non/partial adoption of technology there is, at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

times, lower production at the farmers' fields. There is considerable gap from crop to crop, region to region, situation to situation and system to system between the yields realized at the experimental field *vis-a-vis* the farmers' fields. Also, there is gap between realizable potential and the actual yield at the farmers' level itself. During 2003-04, the Frontline Demonstrations (FLD) conducted in seventeen crops over 19000 farmers' fields covering 7030ha. indicated 22 to 39 per cent lesser yield under farmers' practices.

Encouraging organic manure based farming in states

†509. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to encourage the organic manure based farming in the States like Uttaranchal which are environmentally sensitive;

(b) whether Government provide assistance to Uttaranchal for the production of grains and vegetables based on organic manure and to set up an export zone to export the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following steps have been taken by the State Government of Uttaranchal to encourage the organic manure based organic farming:

- (i) The State Government of Uttaranchal has identified organic farming as thrust area for the mountain districts. All government farms in the mountain region are being converted as Organic Demonstration & Training Centres and all agricultural demonstration, seed production programmes being undertaken organically in the mountain regions.
- (ii) Under Macro Management Scheme, organic initiative like demonstration of different types of compost preparation through different methods has been taken up. 7155 farmers in 667 selected villages have been trained in different aspects of compost making like NADEP compost, vermin compost etc.

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