

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2021

Guidelines for trial of GM Crops

2132. LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Government on GM crops and the guidelines issued on the trials of GM crops;
- (b) whether any expert committee has been constituted to conduct scientific study on GM crops and its impact on human health and environment including disappearance of Monarch Butterfly;
- (c) if so, the details and recommendations thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (d) whether Government has lifted the ban imposed on field trial of some GM food crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) In India, there is a well-established regulatory framework for approval of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as per "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous micro-organisms, Genetically engineered organisms or Cells", 1989 (Rules 1989) established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Evaluation of each application of GMO, including field trials of genetically modified crops are done on a case-to-case basis after a thorough examination of health, environment, food and feed safety assessment studies undertaken in a systematic and scientific manner as per prescribed guidelines, manuals and standard operating procedures stipulated by various regulatory agencies from time to time.

The data generated by the applicants is reviewed at every step in the development process of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by various statutory committees, such as Institutional Biosafety Committee, Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation and Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

Till date, the Government of India has approved only GM Cotton for commercial cultivation in India and there are no instances reported on impact on human health, environment and disappearance of any butterflies in India. The following guidelines are in place for ensuring monitoring and implementation of safety protocols are as below:

- i. Regulations and Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research and Biocontainment, 2017
- ii. Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants, 2016
- iii. Guidelines for the conduct of Confined Field Trials of Regulated, Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, 2008
- iv. Guidelines for the monitoring of Confined Field Trials of Regulated, Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, 2008
- v. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Confined Field Trials of Regulated, Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, 2008
- vi. Confined Field Trials of Genetically Engineered (GE) Plants, 2015

(d) and (e) Does not arise.
