

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 506**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022**

**Gene editing of crops**

506. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) Whether any studies have been undertaken to prove that gene editing of SDN1 and SDN2 categories in crops is not harmful to human beings and the environment, and that no transgenes get inserted in such gene editing;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) If not, the reasons for exempting such Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) from regulation?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) There is no report available with the Ministry regarding any such study. The crop varieties developed by using SDN1 and SDN2 approaches which are free from exogenous introduced DNA are not different from the varieties developed by conventional mutation breeding approach. No transgene is present in varieties developed through SDN1 and SDN2 categories of genome editing. Gene edited varieties falling under the categories of SDN1 and SDN2, which are free from exogenous introduced DNA, are not GMOs.

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