

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding clarity on genetically engineered crops

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Thank you. This is regarding genetically engineered crops. There is no policy clarity on the genetically engineered crops. In the last six to eight months, when feed cost for poultry as well as for shrimp has gone up, we suggested to the Agriculture Ministry and the Commerce Ministry to import corn from other countries. But the Agriculture Ministry and the Commerce Ministry said that they cannot import because they are all genetically modified crops.

But recently, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has granted approval for the environmental release of genetically engineered mustard. The reason that has been given is to decrease the import cost of the cooking oil. So, there is no clarity on which ones we are allowing and which ones we are not allowing. It is because of non-allowance of genetically engineered crops, a lot of Free Trade Agreements also have been stalled. So, there is a need to have clarity from the Agriculture Ministry on the genetically modified crops.