

Regarding need to bring policy on use of GM crops ensuring protection of agro-biodiversity and livelihood of farmers-Laid

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): I draw the attention of the Government to the growing concerns raised by farmers across India regarding genetically modified (GM) crops. Farmer unions from many states, including my constituency of Jhalawar-Baran, Rajasthan, have passed a resolution opposing GM crops, deeming them unnecessary, unsafe, and harmful to our agriculture and food systems. Farmers have highlighted the risks the GM crops pose to biosecurity, biodiversity, and public health. These concerns are amplified by the fact that many countries have banned or heavily restricted GM crop cultivation. India's experience with Bt cotton has shown increased chemical use, stagnating yields, and growing farmer distress. Furthermore, farmers are alarmed by the increasing corporate control over seeds and genetic material through Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), threatening India's agricultural sovereignty. The failure of Bt cotton to control pests has worsened the crisis, especially for cotton farmers in my constituency, where yields are declining, and input costs are rising. Farmers demand a comprehensive national policy on GM crops, one that is precautionary, transparent, and includes stakeholder consultations. I urge the Government to address these concerns and ensure that any policy on GM crops prioritizes the protection of agro-biodiversity, food security, and farmers' livelihoods.