

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
ASSESSMENT ON PERFORMANCE OF BT. COTTON
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have asked the State Governments to submit official assessment report on the performance of BT. Cotton, in their States, which was developed and promoted by Monsanto-Mahyco Bio-Tech Limited;
- (b) if so, whether the States have sent their reports;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of losses suffered by each State as a result thereof;
- (d) the reasons why the G.E.A.C. is going ahead about approving the transgenic crops one after the other despite the cotton growers voicing their opposition and have demanded compensation for the losses suffered by them;
- (e) whether Indonesian firms have demanded compensation of US \$ one billion from Monsanto for the loss suffered and also Indian cotton growers have demanded compensation from the said firm; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.12 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH JULY, 2003.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): Reports received from States indicate that the incidence of bollworm has been less in Bt. in comparison to non-Bt. cotton resulting in reduced requirement of pesticide spray. The hybrids have, however, shown susceptibility to wilting and sucking pest.

(d): The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee had accorded conditional approval for commercial cultivation of only Bt. cotton in April, 2002 for a period of three years, that too only three hybrids. These three approved hybrids are presently under cultivation in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(e)&(f): According to the available information, no crop failure compensation claim has been made on Monsanto Indonesia by any Indonesian agency.

As per the available information, some farmers from States where Bt. cotton was released for cultivation have approached Consumer Forums for compensation due to alleged poor performance of Bt. cotton. The details of the cases are given in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

DETAILS OF THE CASE FILED BY FARMERS IN CONSUMER FORUMS

Name of the States Number of farmers who planted Bt. Cotton Cases filed in Consumer Forums

Andhra Pradesh	6853	21
Gujarat	13269	06
Karnataka	2960	Nil
Maharashtra	15925	10
Madhya Pradesh	2016	10
Tamil Nadu	295	Nil

Total 41318 47