

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3030
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW VARIETY OF POPPY PLANT
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Scientists of the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow had developed a disease resistant and high straw and seed yielding variety of poppy plant and got a U.S. Patent for it;
- (b) if so, the distinguishing features of the new poppy plant alongwith its uses; and
- (c) the benefits accruing from the U.S. patent secured therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. This variety has been named as `Rakshit`. It has been patented in US vide patent NO.6534696. It is a hybrid, developed from disease resistant and high yielding genotypes. It has shown high resistance to downymildew and is moderately resistant to damping off and collar rot. It has higher straw and seed yielding capacity in comparison to conventional varieties. Its straw is an additional source of morphine.

(c) The US patent secures for Indian farmers a competitive advantage in the cultivation of the new variety.