

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1428  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000  
GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS  
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to conduct initial trials on the genetically modified crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have studied the success of these crops in other countries before undertaking such cultivation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which these crops are likely to be introduced in the country?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Sir; to assess the environment safety, taking also into account safety to human and animal health, Government is permitting the conduct of trials under the Indian Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Genetically Modified Crops of cotton, tobacco, tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, mustard and potato are being tested in Indian environment.
- (c) & (d) : Yes Sir, information on many crops is available. Any trial in Indian environment requires the assessment of the risks. No open field trial is authorized before the information is evaluated, and the materials are tested in laboratory and contained Green House conditions for generating additional safety information.
- (e) : Only after the Government is satisfied about the biosafety and agronomic advantage of genetically modified (GM) crops, such crops can be permitted to be introduced. No GM crop has yet been commercially introduced in the country.