

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:475
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
IRRADIATION TECHNOLOGY
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan/programmed for using Irradiation Technology for crop improvement and food preservation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the crops identified under the programmed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIS.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy has an ongoing R&D programme for using radiation technology for crop improvement and food preservation.

(b) Under the crop improvement programme, radiation-induced mutants are either directly used or hybridised, finally leading to the development of new varieties. Using this technique, 23 crop varieties have been developed. These include black gram, green gram, groundnut, jute, mustard, pigeon pea and rice.