

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1506
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
POLICY AND PROGRAMME FOR BIO- TECHNOLOGY
Jatiya Dr. Satyanarayan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made by the Government for the effective implementation of its policy and programmes to provide bio-technology for development of agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

Biotechnological applications in Agriculture are mainly related to the development and release of transgenic crops. Transgenic crops are released under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and so far it has commercially released three Bt. Cotton hybrids of M/s. Mahyco and one Bt. Cotton hybrid of M/s. Rasi Seeds for Central and Southern States.

Recently, six Bt. Cotton hybrids of M/s. Mahyco, Ankur and Rasi Seeds have also been approved by GEAC for release and commercial cultivation in Northern India. However, the Government has constituted a Task Force on Application of Biotechnology in Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. The report of the Task Force had been examined in consultation with various Departments and Ministries and the priorities for biotechnological applications in agriculture have been decided.