

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1579
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005
GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS
Chakraborty Shri Swadesh

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

- (a) whether genetically engineered (GE) foods help to feed the hungry in the world, Third world in particular;
- (b) whether the biotech industry is loosing the struggle for global acceptance of GM products; and
- (c) if so, the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. Genetically engineered foods do have the potential to feed the hungry particularly in the third world, because of their enhanced production; improved nutrition and value addition in various other ways.

(b)&(c) No Sir. Worldwide, the acceptance of genetically modified (GM) products has in fact, increased. The cultivation of GM crops has risen globally from 67.7 million hectares in 2003 to 81 million hectares in 2004. In the pharmaceutical sector, many drugs and vaccines are being used for life saving purposes. There are also a number of industrially useful GM products that have reached the market.