

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:114  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006  
CROPS FOR BT. TECHNOLOGY .  
Singh Shri Prabhunath

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) The name of crops for which Bt. technology is being used at present;
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to eliminate its usage in those products which are produced in large quantity by indigenous techniques;
- (c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) Whether Indian farmers have incurred heavy financial losses and health hazards due to its farming; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 114 DUE FOR REPLY ON 31ST JULY, 2006.

(a): Sir, Bt. cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.

(b)&(c): The transgenic approach is complementary to and not a substitution of the indigenous and conventional crop production technologies. Further, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is the competent authority to approve or disallow the release of genetically modified crops in accordance with prescribed requirements.

(d)&(e): As per the information provided by different States, the production of Bt. cotton is higher by 15% to 30% as compared to non-Bt. cotton. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that farmers had suffered losses on account of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds supplied by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) Ltd., in certain districts of the State. No reports have been received from other Bt. cotton growing States about financial losses and health hazards to farmers on account of Bt. cotton crop.