

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:286  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006  
USE OF G.M. SEEDS  
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Indo-American Agricultural Agreement is being used as an excuse to force the usage of gene-modified seeds or food products on the farmers in the name of bio-technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to consider formulating a policy to deal with the basic problems of low productivity as a result thereof; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.286 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/08/2006 REGARDING `USE OF G.M. SEEDS`

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The Indo-US Agricultural Knowledge Initiative (AKI) has a focus on education, food processing, biotechnology and water management. Under the AKI, it is not contemplated to force the usage of gene-modified (GM) seeds or products thereof on farmers.

(c) & (d): No decline in productivity is foreseen as a result of the adoption of G.M. seeds. The environmental release of all GM seeds/varieties including transgenics of crops is done after thorough testing under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986, for which the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is the nodal Ministry.

The National Agricultural Policy is in vogue. It aims at raising production and productivity through development of new crop varieties with higher nutritional value including adoption of biotechnology while addressing bio-safety concerns.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is already implementing a number of schemes to raise agricultural productivity and production such as Integrated Cereals Development Programme, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize, several crop-based All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Projects etc. National Horticulture Mission has also been launched during 2005-06 to promote horticulture in the country.