

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:797
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
GM SEEDS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the high cost of Genetically Modified (GM) seeds has restricted the growth of GM crops in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of various types of GM crops being cultivated in the country as on date, crop-wise;
- (c) the area under GM crops, crop-wise;
- (d) the details of the comparative production of such crops during the last three years in the country, State-wise and year-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance to promote the cultivation of GM crops; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Bt. Cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved for commercial cultivation in the country by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. So far, 62 hybrids of Bt. Cotton have been approved for commercial cultivation in nine States. Bt. Cotton seeds in India are produced and marketed by private seed companies. The Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has ordered private seed companies not to charge exorbitant trait value of Bt. Cotton Seed sold by them. The area under Bt. Cotton has increased from 29,000 hectares in kharif, 2002 to 12.34 lakh hectares in Kharif, 2005, which is estimated to increase upto 34.40 lakh hectares in kharif, 2006. Biotech Consortium India Ltd, has been commissioned for training and awareness of farmers on package of practices and post release monitoring relating to Bt. Cotton.