

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2812
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
NEW COTTON VARIETY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) scientists have developed new cotton varieties which is pest-proof;
- (b) if so, the details and features thereof;
- (c) whether the new cotton varieties have been tested; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The scientists of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, have developed a new cotton variety, which is under evaluation for bollworm resistance.
- (b) A Bt gene (truncated codon-modified cry1Ac gene) was introduced into a popular cotton variety Bikaneri Narma. The delta endotoxin expressed in the cotton plant is expected to cause bollworm mortality.
- (c) The genetically modified cotton variety is being tested for its biosafety and its performance in terms of agronomy and bollworm infestation level. The variety is proposed for field-testing in South Zone.
- (d) The Genetically modified cotton variety is resistant to bollworms.