

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3580  
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007  
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD CROPS  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the Genetically Modified Food Crops on which the Government has conducted research relating to their impact on human beings;
- (b) the details of the outcome of such research so far; and
- (c) the steps taken to protect the interest of farmers while giving permission for cultivation of such crops in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, which is the Nodal Department, has not conducted research on Genetically Modified (GM) Food Crops related to their impact on human beings. However, M/s Mahyco, Mumbai have conducted toxicity and allergenicity study on GM food crop i.e. Bt brinjal, with the approval of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) of DBT. The study report submitted by M/s Mahyco, Mumbai does not indicate any adverse impact.

(c) No food crop has so far been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India for commercial cultivation by the farmers. All genetically modified food crops/organisms and products thereof are regulated in India under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells Rules, 1989, framed under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules provide that all food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. Therefore, the Government is following a policy of case-by-case approval of GM products. As per the prescribed biosafety guidelines, all genetically modified food are required to be tested for toxicity and allergenicity prior to their approval for human consumption.