

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the application of agricultural biotechnology in the production of various crops in order to achieve food security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): The Government is promoting research through many multi-institutional network research projects on application of biotechnology in agriculture. A network project on transgenics is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to intensify research on development of transgenics to increase yield and quality in 14 crops of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable, fruits, and fibre, involving 20 ICAR institutions. Department of Biotechnology is supporting various programmes on capacity building, research and development including institutional infrastructure and regulatory regime for development and release of transgenics crops. The Government is also providing assistance to various agencies for establishment of tissue culture facilities for large scale multiplication of elite/disease free planting material.