

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2077

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007

DEATH OF CATTLES DUE TO BT- COTTON

Chandrapan Shri C.K.;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any report from Andhra Pradesh regarding the death of cattles grazing on BT-cotton fields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the harmful elements mentioned in the report;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the report of the said enquiry is likely to be submitted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a)to(d): The Government has not received any report from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding death of cattle grazing in Bt-cotton fields. However, a section of the press had reported such deaths in Adilabad and Warrangal districts in February-March, 2007. Laboratory analysis of Bt-cotton plants and post-mortem material revealed the samples to be positive for Organo phosphates; negative for HCN, Nitrite, Nitrates and Plant poisons; having Bt protein content of 1.4-5 ug/g in both leaf and boll samples (maximum tolerable limits reported is 5-10 ug/g); Gossypol and pesticides within permissible levels. The results thus indicate that the deaths were not due to Bt-cotton. The Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati has informed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research of a scientific study being conducted by it on the problem.