

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1357
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
NUCLEAR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME OF BARC
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

[a] whether the Nuclear Agriculture Programme of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) covers development of high yielding crop seeds to be used in the country;

[b] if so, the details thereof; and [c] the details of the crop varieties released so far and notified for commercial cultivation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Mutation breeding for crop improvement is an active area of research at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). 29 improved varieties developed by BARC using radiation induced mutation and cross breeding, have been released and notified for commercial cultivation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. These include 16 in oil seeds (12 groundnuts, 2 soybean and 2 mustard); 11 in pulses (4 blackgram, 5 greengram, 2 pigeonpea) and 1 each in rice and jute. All of them are high yielding, some with additional desirable characters like disease resistance, improved quality parameters etc. Some of these varieties have become popular among farming community. Effective linkages have been established with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Department of Agricultural Cooperation (DAC), State Agricultural Universities, National and State Seed Corporations, National Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, progressive farmers etc., for effective dissemination.

(c) The details are given in Annex I.