

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
BT COTTON VARIETIES
Badal Shri Sukhbir Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Punjab Agricultural University authorities have asked the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to release BT Cotton varieties for cultivation in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and save farmers from the clutches of unscrupulous traders who have been fleecing cotton growers by selling unapproved seed varieties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it will be released to farmers of these States?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Vice Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University has requested ICAR vide his letter dated 28.1.2005 for early decision on approval of Bt Cotton for North Zone.
- (c) Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is the nodal authority for taking the decision of release of genetically modified crops to farmers, has approved Bt Cotton hybrids for cultivation in North Zone on 4.3.2005.