

Title: Need to set up a Department of Agro-Biotechnology in Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra and provide requisite funds for its establishment.

SHRIS.D. MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to raise a matter under Rule 377.

Sir, the Shivaji University was established in 1962 at Kolhapur. Its jurisdiction covers four districts, viz., Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Sholapur. These districts have very large population of agriculturists and they are always in forefront to adopt new agricultural methods.

Even though our country is self-sufficient in food production, it has reached a stage of saturation point in respect of production capacity. In view of this, newer and better methods of food production are a must. Proficiency in DNA technology, along with agro-biotech disease control, and futuristic genetics are a need of the time.

The Shivaji University is located in epicentre of agricultural activities and is best suited for establishment of a national level Research Centre for new agricultural methods. It has sufficient land in its possession as also has agriculture college suitably located near the premises of the University. Besides, the University has highly qualified, experienced and persons of high calibre in its faculty of scientists.

Sir, I, therefore, demand through you that a Department of Agro-Biotechnology be established by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development in the Shivaji University and necessary financial assistance be provided for the purpose.