

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has agreed to join Geneva-based International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants traditionally referred to as UPOV;
- (b) if so, whether India had already accepted the UPOV, 1978;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have also passed any bill in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.319 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH APRIL, 2002.

(a)&(b): The proposal to join the UPOV 1978 Convention is under consideration of the Government.

(c): The Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers` Rights Act, 2001 can be used as an instrument for acceding to the UPOV Convention.

(d): Some of the advantages which may accrue to India by joining the UPOV Convention are:-

- It will stimulate greater investment in research for the development of new plant varieties which will ensure the availability of quality seeds to the farmers.
- It will obviate the need for the country to enter into a large number of bilateral agreements with other countries for mutual recognition of plant breeders` rights.
- It will enable Indian plant breeders to get protection in all convention countries with minimal formalities and administrative and transaction costs.