

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003

SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTRES BY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have allowed certain multinational companies to set up agriculture research centres in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the seed industry so as to make it conform to international standards from the viewpoints of technique, quality and prices?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Certain multinational companies such as Indo-American Hybrid Seed (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore; Monsanto India Ltd., New Delhi; Proagro Seed Co. Limited, Gurgaon; Rallis India Limited, Mumbai; Seminis Vegetable Seeds (India) Limited, Pune; Tokita Seed India (P) Ltd., Gurgaon; Unicorn Agrotech Limited, Hyderabad; Nunhems Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon; John Hamilton & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore etc. have their agricultural research centres in India.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government of India:

1. Seed Policy, 2002 has been prepared with specific aim and objectives to improve the quality of seeds conforming to international standards. Meanwhile action under the Seeds Act, 1966 is being taken.
2. The Seeds Act, 1966 has prescribed minimum standards for germination, genetic purity and physical purity under Section 6(a) and 6(b) of the Seeds Act for labelling the notified kind/variety of seeds. The labelling of seed is compulsory for notified kind/variety.
3. Under Section 17 (a) of the Seeds Rules, Government of India has prescribed standards namely Indian minimum Seed Certification Standard for certifying the seeds. Certification is obligatory.
4. Labelling and certification standards have been prescribed to meet International standards.
5. Government of India (GOI) encourages Indian Seed Companies and individual seed producing agencies to obtain membership and participation in International Organisation like International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) etc.
6. GOI has recommended to ISTA for accreditation of the seed testing laboratories of Indo-American Hybrid Seeds Company, Bangalore, Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, Adventa Seeds Ltd., Hyderabad and MAHYCO, Jalna to issue 'Orange Certificate' of ISTA for sampling and testing their seed produce. The ISTA Executive committee has accredited the Seed testing laboratory of Indo-American Hybrid Seeds (India) Pvt. Ltd. with effect from November 15, 2002 and authorized to issue International Certificates. This would facilitate conforming to international standards.
7. GOI is processing the case to obtain OECD membership for certifying the seeds to be traded in the International Market.
8. India is globally competitive in regard to quality, price etc. for seed exports which mainly comprises two major categories namely, i) customs production for exports, and ii) export of indigenously bred varieties.
9. In order to make the availability of seeds to the farmers on par with International Seed Companies, GOI has reduced the duty on imported seeds.