

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:287

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

SELLING OF FAKE SEEDS

Mistry Shri Madhusudan Devram;Patel Shri Dinsha J.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the selling of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds by traders to the farmers in some States of the country;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government against such traders;
- (c) whether the Government intend to pay compensation to such farmers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(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. 287 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16TH AUGUST, 2004.

(a)&(b): Production of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds has been reported in Gujarat. According to information made available by Government of Gujarat, 61,751 kgs. of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds has been confiscated. FIRs have been filed in 12 cases upto 30.6.2004.

(c): Affected farmers may claim compensation from the producer, distributor or vendor under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(d): State Governments have been advised to take action against the producers and vendors of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the Rules for Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as referral Laboratory for detection of presence/absence of Bt. Gene in the cotton hybrid seeds. Measures such as compulsory registration of varieties and enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringements are proposed in the new Seeds Act to safeguard the interest of the farmers.