

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:376

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005

DEMAND AND AVAILABILITY OF SEEDS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether seed availability and seed replacement rates for most of the crops remained inadequate and below the desired levels;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the situation;
- (d) whether there is also a mismatch in availability and demand of seeds of different varieties, especially in case of crops/varieties specific to the problem areas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Union Government to rectify these problems?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 376 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2005.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Though the usage of quality seeds has increased from 14 lakh quintals in 1979-80 to 140.51 lakh quintals in 2005-06, the seed replacement rates for several crops generally still remain below the desired levels. The Union Government provides assistance to States for the production and distribution of quality seeds, organization of demonstrations, distribution of minikits and other measures. A seed village scheme has also been launched this year to improve the quality of farmers' saved seeds which would help improve the seed replacement rate.

(d) to (f): 73.10 lakh quintals of seed is available against the requirement of 55.47 lakh quintals of seeds for Rabi 2005. No serious mismatch in demand and availability of seeds has been reported by the States during the Zonal Seeds Review Meetings, held before Rabi and Kharif.

To further improve the seed indent and production system the following steps have been taken viz.

- (i) Revised system of breeder seed indent and supply from Kharif 2006 onwards and
- (ii) Preparation of National Seed Plan envisaging seed replacement rate of 25%, 35% and 100% for self pollinated, cross pollinated and hybrid crops respectively.