

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:29

ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010

QUALITY OF SEEDS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Seeds Bill, 2004 to curb the sale of spurious and poor quality seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed amendments and likely benefits to the farmers as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed amendments are likely to include a provision for price regulation of seeds;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the extent to which amending the Seeds Bill, 2004 is likely to regulate the quality of seeds and act as a deterrent against the sale of spurious and poor quality seeds in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The Seeds Bill contains several provisions to curb the sale of spurious seeds which are proposed to be further strengthened through official amendments.

(b): Following provisions deal with sale of spurious seeds:

- 1) Registration of seeds of kind or varieties.
- 2) Special provision for registration of transgenic varieties.
- 3) Cancellation of registration of seeds of kinds or varieties.
- 4) Compensation to farmers in case of seed failure.
- 5) Seed producer, seed processing unit, seed dealer and horticultural nursery to be registered.
- 6) Regulation of sale of seeds of registered kinds and varieties.
- 7) Seed Analysts and Seed Inspectors: powers and functions.
- 8) Import of seeds.
- 9) Offences and punishment for violations.
- 10) Forfeiture of property.
- 11) Offences by companies.

(c) & (d): There is no provision in the Seeds Act, 1966 for price regulation. Seed is an essential commodity in terms of Seed (Control) Order 1983 issued in exercise of powers available under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 but the same is for purpose of quality control only. Price regulation is not provided for. In a situation when most of the sectors of the economy are opening up it will not serve public purpose to exercise control over seed industry except in matters of quality. Further, it is the policy of the Government to encourage public-private partnership and create a conducive environment for growth of seed industry. Imposition of price control will undermine the conducive environment that exists now and will bureaucratize the seed industry. A free and competitive market environment will spur the growth of the seed industry. There is, therefore, no provision or amendment proposed for price control in the Seeds Bill 2004.

(e): As replied to at (b) above.