

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:15
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
PRESERVATION OF SEEDS
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policy regarding preservation and conservation of old stock of seeds and producing them in large quantity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to conserve the seeds of precious red (Lal) rice being produced in the Rohru area of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh so that the production of this variety of rice could get a boost; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Germplasm of almost all land races and farmer's varieties of different crops of Himachal Pradesh has been collected and conserved (ex situ) in the National Gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

(c) & (d): Germplasm of Red Rice being produced in Rohru area of Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh has also been conserved in the National Gene Bank at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi and proposal for registration of Red Rice of Rohru has already been submitted to the Protection of Plant Variety and Farmer's Right Authority, New Delhi in the name of 'Chohartu Red Rice'. For boosting the production and on Farm Management of Red Rice, skill upgradation of farmers is being done by organizing them into farmers groups. Value addition of Red Rice for increasing livelihood option of local farming community has also been started through National Agricultural Innovation Project (Biodiversity) of World Bank/Indian Council of Agricultural Research.