

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3279
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
QUALITY OF SEEDS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only 20 percent of Indian farmers purchase hybrid seeds and majority of them depend on farm saved seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among farmers and for development of the seeds market in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Though farm saved seed is used, the purchase of seed including hybrid seed has increased as is evident from the following facts

(i) The production of certified/quality seed has increased from 140.50 lakh qtls. in 2005-06 to 250.35 lakh in 2008-09. Year-wise details are under:

Year Production in lakh quintals % change

2005-06 140.50 6.22

2006-07 148.18 5.47

2007-08 194.31 31.13

2008-09 250.35 28.84

(ii) Over all availability of seed is higher than the requirement. The over all availability certified/quality seed in the country for Rabi 2008-09 is 144.80 lakh quintals against the requirement of 111.24 lakh quintals and for Kharif 2009 the availability is 126.51 lakh quintals against the requirement of 110.97 lakh quintals as reported by the State/UT Governments.

(c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutions (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAU's) conduct Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) and Kissan melas. State Departments of Agriculture conduct Field Demonstrations, Crop Production Technology Demonstrations, Farmers Field Schools, seed minikit distribution to popularize the high yielding new varieties of various crops. Assistance for seed sector is provided under the following schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:

- i. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).
- ii. National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
- iii. Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM).
- iv. Technology Mission on Cotton.
- v. Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta.
- vi. Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.
- vii. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).