

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3325  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009  
NATIONAL GENE BANK  
Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a National Gene Bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of farmers who have benefited from this bank during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up similar Gene Banks in every State in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the steps being taken to preserve the genes of the indigenous variety of foodgrains and crops?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The National Gene Bank was established during the year 1983 at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. It presently has 18 storage modules with a capacity to store 1 million accessions and holds more than 3.80 lakh accessions of over 1300 crop/plant species. The National Gene Bank has three components, the Seed Gene Bank (holding 3,72,573 accessions), the Cryo-bank (holding 8,000 accessions) and an In Vitro repository (holding about 1900 accessions).

(c) The material held in gene Banks is readily accessible to farmers but the material is primarily used by breeders and other researchers in crop improvement and basic researches, as raw material. On an average 15,000-20,000 accessions are supplied to various users in national programmes per annum.

(d) to (f): No, Madam, However, NBPGR has 10 regional stations across the country in different agro-ecological zones and many of these stations have medium-term storage facilities. The regional storage facilities (regional gene banks) are available at Thrissur (Kerala), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Akola (Maharashtra), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Bhowali (Uttarakhand), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Shillong (Meghalaya) stations of NBPGR. A few more such facilities are also available in national network at different places.

The National Gene Bank at NBPGR Headquarters, New Delhi conserves the genetic resources of all agricultural crops of the country for long-term.