

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4456
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
AMENDMENT IN SEED ACT
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Seed Act; and
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

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): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Seeds Bill, 2004 has been proposed in consultation with the experts, to overcome the following deficiencies of the existing seed legislation:-

- (i) present Seeds Act regulates only notified kind and varieties and does not address non-notified varieties, research hybrid varieties, etc.;
- (ii) It does not have provision for seed health;
- (iii) green manure seeds, narcotics, plantation crops, etc. are not covered;
- (iv) there is no provision for declaring expected performance of the variety of seeds;
- (v) there is no provision for compensation;
- (vi) There is no provision for regulation of transgenic materials;
- (vii) the definition for `farmers exemption` is ambiguous;
- (viii) penalties for infringement are very mild.

The following benefits are expected from the Seeds Bill, 2004:-

- (i) regulation of seeds and planting material of all agricultural, horticultural, plantation, etc. crops so as to ensure availability of true to type seeds to Indian farmers;
- (ii) check on sale of spurious and poor quality seed of all kind/varieties;
- (iii) increase in the proportion of quality seed available for sowing;
- (iv) simplification of procedures and more efficient regulation;
- (v) increased private participation;
- (vi) regulation of import and sale of transgenic seed and planting material;
- (vii) liberalised import of seeds and planting materials;
- (viii) provision of farmers' exemption from registration, etc.

The salient features of the Seeds Bill, 2004 is at Annexure.