

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3402
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL SEED RESERVE
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai;Shantha J.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Seed Reserve to meet the shortage of seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the seeds agencies in the States would be encouraged to ensure availability of good quality seeds and that too at a reasonable price;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to import high quality seeds; and
- (f) if so, the names of the countries from which the said seeds are proposed to be imported?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): No, Madam. However, the Ministry of Agriculture is presently implementing a component on 'Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank' under the Scheme 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds'. The objective of the component is to meet requirement of seeds during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c) & (d): Government of India is providing assistance under various schemes for seed production, distribution, certification, quality control and related components for ensuring timely availability of certified quality seeds. The schemes where assistance is provided are 'Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds', 'National Food Security Mission', 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana', 'Mega Seed Project', 'Macro Management of Agriculture', 'Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)', 'Technology Mission on Cotton', 'Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta', 'National Horticulture Mission' and 'Technology Mission on North East (TMNE).

(e) & (f): No, Madam. However, EXIM Committee recommends import of seeds and planting materials on case to case basis on the basis of application received from the importer as per the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988.