

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:200
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD SEEDS
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any matter with regard to supply of sub-standard seeds, plants and grafts by the multinational companies have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government against such companies; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such malpractices?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government of Rajasthan has reported that three samples were found sub-standard in the state in 2009-10 of the seed marketed by the Multinational Company M/s. Bayer Bio Sciences. The State Government has taken the action against dealers/distributors and producers and show-cause notices have been issued. Legal Proceedings were initiated as per the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control Order, 1983. Similarly, the Government of Bihar has also informed about poor setting of grain in hybrid Maize seeds in the year 2009-10 supplied by a domestic and one multinational company i.e. M/s. Monsanto India Ltd. The complaint was investigated by a team comprising the scientists of Rajendra Agricultural University, Bihar. The team observed that there was a poor development of tassel, silk emergence and non synchronization resulting in a poor grain setting in the maize crop and attributed the same to the un-favourable weather condition. Accordingly, the State Government has advised the seed companies to provide the sowing time and temperature sensitivity of hybrid maize on seed packets.

(c): Under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control Order, 1983 the State Governments are empowered to check the sale of fake/inferior/spurious seeds in the state. The Seed Inspectors notified under relevant provisions of these legal instruments have powers to draw the samples, seize the stock and issue 'Stop Sale' order and file the case in the court if the commodities under reference contravene the provisions of law.