

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1111

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

HIGH QUALITY SEEDS

Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Roy Shri Arjun;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to failure of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in providing/developing high quality and certified seeds, Indian farmers are becoming dependent upon foreign multinational companies for high quality and certified seeds;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of high quality and certified seeds developed by the research institutes during the last three years; and

(d) the various steps taken by these institutes to develop new varieties of seeds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has well established system for development of new varieties suitable for varied agro-climatic zones of the country. So far, more than 4000 varieties have been developed by ICAR in different crops which are suitable for various cropping pattern. In major crops like paddy, wheat, pearl millet, sorghum, pulses, oilseed, etc, the requirement of certified/quality seeds of farmers are generally met through the better varieties developed by ICAR. However, in some crops like Bt. cotton, hybrid maize, vegetable, etc. the requirement of farmers are also met through the seeds developed by private/multinational seed companies.

(c): The number of varieties developed by the ICAR/SAUs research Institutes during the last three years are at Annexure-I

(d): The research institutes of ICAR and SAUs have taken several steps to enhance their capacity to develop new varieties of different crops. All the institutes are upgraded in their infrastructure facilities particularly for biotech research, cadre strength of their scientists have been reviewed in view of their requirements in specific area of research, specific facilities have been developed for evaluation of germplasm for different traits including biotic and abiotic stresses and their seed quality research has been strengthened. Besides this, the major emphasis is to develop the hybrids particularly in rice and pigeonpea.