

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5249

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

TRADITIONAL AND NEWLY DEVELOPED SEEDS

Joshi Dr. Murlī Manohar;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that newly developed seeds are largely used as compared to traditional seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard and the quantum of traditional and newly developed seeds being presently used in the country on an average;
- (c) whether the traditional seeds contain more nutritional content than the new developed seeds;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the scientific research in this regard;
- (e) whether the farmers in the country have to depend on trade centres for newly developed seeds due to increasing use of such seeds;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the plan/scheme formulated by the Government to reduce the dependency of the farmers on trade centres?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. The new varieties are developed using the land races/traditional varieties which possesses resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses including other valuable traits like quality etc. The new varieties are widely tested across the agro climatic zones of the country. These new varieties have substantial yield advantage over the traditional varieties. At present, the seed is being produced of newly released varieties.

(c) & (d): There is no much difference in respect to nutrients between traditional varieties and new varieties developed through breeding. However, there are certain traditional land races which are known for being rich in iron and zinc content, resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses and some of which have local consumer preference such as 'Nirara', 'Radhuni Pagol', 'Kalanamak' in rice etc.

(e): No, Madam.

(f): Question does not arise.

(g): Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is already implementing several schemes which provides assistance for seed related activities including production and distribution subsidy under various crop development programme/ scheme viz; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme on Oil seeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management Mode of Agriculture of State Work Plan (MMA), Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta (TMJ&M), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Technology Mission on North East (TMNE), Mega Seed Project implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds. The details are at Annexure.