

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:818
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
SUB-STANDARD SEEDS
Dhurve Jyoti;Mishra Shri Mahabal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of availability of sub-standard/fake seeds in various parts of the country including Gujarat and Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some companies are involved in producing and distributing fake/sub-standard seeds in various States of the country;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Union Government to ensure availability of good quality seeds to the farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): There is no report from State Governments about supply of sub- standard/fake seeds in different parts of the country including Gujarat and Rajasthan except Andhra Pradesh where State Government has received few complaints in Warangal, Guntur, Adilabad, Khamman and Kurnool districts during 2012. A total quantity of 567 quintals, worth Rs.409 lakhs of spurious seeds was seized. Twenty five persons were arrested and eighteen licenses of the defaulted dealers were suspended /cancelled. Seventeen cases were booked under IPC 420.

(c) & (d): No such report has received from the State Governments. However, for regulating the quality of seeds in the country and for curbing the sale of substandard/spurious seeds, adequate provisions are available under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. The State Governments are fully empowered to take action in all such cases at their level, including powers to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue 'Stop Sale' order and file prosecution in the court.

(e): For ensuring adequate production, availability and supply of quality seeds to the farmers of the country, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various schemes. Under the central sector scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds" assistance is provided for strengthening and modernizing seed infrastructure facilities in public as well as private sector, upgrading the quality of farm saved seed through seed village programme, production and distribution of hybrid seeds, establishing Seed Bank for ensuring seed availability in contingency situations, quality control arrangement of seeds etc. In addition, financial assistance is given for production and distribution subsidy under various crop development programme/schemes viz; National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Jute & Mesta, National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Technology Mission for the North East (TMNE) and Mega Seed Project implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research.