

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
SETTING UP OF SEED BANK
Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of seed banks functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the existing seed banks are sufficient to meet the needs of the farmers;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up a nationwide seed bank to preserve and promote local indigenous varieties of plants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to preserve the local and indigenous varieties of vegetables, grains and cereals?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 18 seed banks are in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala through the State Seed Corporations/Seeds Development Authority (SSCs) and in Tamil Nadu through State Department of Agriculture. National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India also operate Seed Banks at National Level. The objectives of the Seed Bank are to meet requirement of Seed arising due to natural calamities and other unforeseen conditions like drought, floods etc. The certified and foundation seeds of location specific varieties including local varieties which are suitable for such situations are generally kept in the Seed Bank. The existing seeds banks are adequate to meet the needs of the farmers.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): Seed Banks are established based on the needs expressed by the States and with a specific mandate to provide alternate seeds in the event of unforeseen calamities such as drought, flood etc. The seeds that are stored in these banks are of short and medium duration varieties of crops suited for the area and to meet the requirement of contingent situations.

However, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and national active germplasm sites which are operating as Gene banks in different states have objectives to collect, characterize, evaluate, conserve and to make available germplasm including land races, wild species and traditional varieties of different crops including indigenous varieties of vegetables, grains and cereals for agricultural research purposes. Also, these gene banks conserve local varieties.