

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4140
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
GENETIC MATERIAL OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has proposed to make available the genetic material of various agricultural crops to private seed companies by giving access to plant gene bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this move amounts to legalizing biopiracy in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against this move by ICAR to safeguard the India's natural resources?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has not prepared any proposal to make available plant genetic resources to private seed companies. However, breeder seed of released varieties and parental lines of hybrids is being supplied to private seed companies through the indents of Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India. Further, ICAR has signed MoUs for supply of seed of parental lines with private Indian seed companies on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- (c) All exchange of germplasm takes place through the established system set by the Government of India.
- (d) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 as a safeguard has already been in placed by Government of India.