

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:791

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013

CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Conference on Agriculture on Rabi Campaign, 2013 was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues and problems discussed during the said Conference;
- (c) whether any concern has been raised regarding the availability of actual variety of seeds of different crops required by farmers of various regions in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the strategies chalked out to improve agricultural production during the ensuing Rabi season in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The Conference was held on 24th and 25th September, 2013 in New Delhi and inaugurated by the Union Minister of Agriculture.

(b): Wide range of issues concerning development of agriculture and with specific reference to the crops to be raised in ensuing Rabi season were discussed by the officers of the Central & State Governments and UT administrations. The States raised various issues of their concern, such as approval mechanism for pesticides; conduct of location specific research on pesticides by State Agricultural Universities; development of heat tolerant varieties; management of yellow rust; management of fallow lands; need to increase area under protected cultivation; farm mechanization to off-set high labour cost; subsidy on chemical fertilizers; additional rake points for fertilizers; treatment of acidic/saline soils, etc. The issues raised were responded to by the officers of the Union Ministries of Agriculture and Fertilizers.

(c) & (d): Some of the issues raised regarding availability of quality seeds for stress prone areas; need for making arrangement of Breeder / Foundation seeds for seed production / multiplication; availability of quality / certified seeds of early maturing varieties of wheat, lentil, khesari, groundnut, sunflower and their integration with seed rolling plan etc. States were advised to tie up for their next year's requirement of high yielding and quality seeds with National Seeds Corporation and other agencies identified for the purpose which were fully geared up to meet the requirement.

(e): The main strategies chalked out are:-

- # timely pre-positioning of agricultural Inputs like Seeds, Seed treating bio-agents/chemicals, Fertilizers, Micro-nutrients, Weedicides & Pesticides;
- # timely sowing;
- # focus on the districts having higher target area;
- # moisture conservation and timely sowing in rainfed areas in view of early withdrawal of Monsoon; and
- # optimum and efficient use of conserved water.