

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3228

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY SEEDS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a huge institutional framework for seed production both in the public and private sector, availability of good quality seeds continues to be a problem for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers prefer to rely on farm saved seeds due to non availability of good quality hybrid seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether inspite of implementation of Central Sector Scheme for development and strengthening of infrastructure, facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds, the infrastructure facilities remains unchanged;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the corrective measures taken by the Government to improve infrastructure at the level of State Seed Corporations as well as the private sector to provide subsidised foundation seeds to the farmers and to boost the availability of quality seeds?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The availability of certified/ quality seed in the country is not a problem for the farmers as total availability of certified/ quality seeds is 34731302 quintals against the requirement of 33526472 quintals during current year 2013-14.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. The availability of good quality Hybrid seeds in the country is 2023064 quintals against the requirement of 1923597 quintals.

(e) to (g): The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Development and Strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds" for creation/ strengthening of seed processing and seed storage facilities in public including State Seeds Corporations by providing 100% grant in aid and private sector by providing capital subsidy of 25% limited to Rs.25 lakh as back ended credit linked subsidy respectively. To upgrade the quality of farm saved seeds through Seed Village Programme, government is providing 50% subsidy on distribution of foundation/ certified seeds to the farmers in the country. Consequently, under the public sector, 56.13 lakh quintal seed processing capacity and 53.87 lakh quintal seed storage capacity has been created. Similarly, under the private sector 94.57 lakh quintal seed processing capacity and 33.23 lakh quintal seed storage facilities has been created.