

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3984
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014
SUPPLY OF LOW QUALITY SEEDS
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Seeds Act, 1966 was slated to be replaced by the Seeds Bill, 2004 with a view to provide for more stringent penalty clauses for low quality seed suppliers;
- (b) if so, the current status of the Seeds Bill, 2004;
- (c) the comparative details of the penalty/punishment clauses in the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds Bill, 2004 regarding supply of low quality seeds to farmers; and
- (d) the time likely to be taken to enact the new seeds bill which is pending since 2004?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has introduced the Seeds Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha to further strengthen the seed quality regime in the country.
- (c): In the Seeds Bill, 2004, the penalty for supply of low quality seeds will be enhanced to a maximum of Rs.5,00,000 and imprisonment upto one year from the present provision of a maximum Rs.1000 and imprisonment upto six months period as provided in the Seeds Act, 1966.
- (d): Currently, the Bill is under consideration of Rajya Sabha.