

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:368

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

HIGH YIELDING SEEDS

Bavalia Shri Kuvajibhai Mohanbhai;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether schemes for developing high yielding variety of seeds of crops have been launched;
- (b) if so, the achievement of those schemes in the matter of production and productivity and the percentage increase in production estimated due to the use of such seeds in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has allocated any funds for dissemination of information to popularise new high yielding varieties of seeds and distribution of the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of funds allocated during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise alongwith the steps taken for increasing the availability of such seeds in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.368 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15-12-2009 REGARDING 'HIGH YIELDING SEEDS'

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has various schemes for the development of new high yielding varieties of crops during the current five year plan period.

(b) Indian agriculture has made tremendous progress in terms of self- sufficiency in food grains. All time record food grain production of 233.88 million tones has been achieved (4th advance estimate 2008-09). Productivity of food grain crops enhanced from 522 kg/ha (1950-51) to 1854 kg/ha 2007-08 which is more than three times due to cultivation of high yielding crop varieties and hybrids, developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Adoption of improved technologies particularly improved varieties/hybrids possessing high yield and resistant to major diseases and pest, and other desirable traits enhanced production and productivity of crops. Front Line Demonstrations in farmers' fields have indicated the scope of 25 to 45 % increase in yield through the adoption of high yielding pulse varieties and new agricultural technologies. In cotton crop, there has been increase in production to the tune of 15% in North zone, 19% in central zone and 21% South zone during 2007-09. Through the adoption of improved technologies including 721 high yielding horticultural crop varieties and their production technologies, India has emerged as the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. It has substantially improved the food and nutritional security. Further, production increased up to 2.4 fold in banana and tomato, 1.6 fold in potato and 1.3 fold in cassava from 1991-92 to 2005-06.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched the Central Sector Scheme namely 'Development and Strengthening of Seed Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds' during 2005-06 to develop and strengthen the existing infrastructure for the production and distribution of certified/quality crop seeds and planting materials to farmers.

The important components of the scheme are: Seed Village Programme, Creation of Seed Infrastructure Facilities in Public Sector, Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States, Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank, Strengthening Seed Quality Control Organisation, Assistance to Tissue Culture Laboratory and Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector.

The allocations of funds for the primary scheme for seed developmental and dissemination of information, namely 'Development and strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of seeds' for the last three years, state-wise is at annexure (Annexure-1). However, there are several schemes in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for popularization of high yielding varieties/ hybrids such as the National Food Security Mission, Micromanagement of Agriculture, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses Oilpam and Maize, Technology Mission on Cotton, Technology Mission on Jute & Mesta etc.