

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:774
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
SPURIOUS SEEDS
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the existing laws to deal with the companies producing spurious and fake seeds are not adequate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to made the existing laws more stringent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government are aware that such fake/spurious sale of seeds including spurious Bt. Cotton have caused loss to the farmers as `Lanya` disease has affected cotton crops on a large scale in the country including Maharashtra;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken against such companies/traders during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to compensate the affected farmers; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Adequate provisions are available to curtail the sale of spurious seeds under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules, 1968, Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(c) & (d): Department has introduced the Seeds Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha in December, 2004 in order to strengthen the existing law. The Bill provides for compulsory registration of all kinds/varieties of seeds, based upon their expected performance, compensation to the farmers in case of failure, and enhanced penalties for infringement.

(e): Cotton hybrids are prone to leaf reddening popularly called LALYA in Marathi. Poor translocation of essential nutrients leads to reddening of cotton leaves on fall in soil temperature at the onset of winter. This is not a disease caused by any pathogen or spurious seed. Farmers are advised to spray 2% urea to mitigate this problem.

(f) to (h): Do not arise.