

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:495

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

SEED BANKS

Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

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

- (a) the number of seed banks and seed laboratories in the country at present, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to open more new seed banks and seed laboratories in the country to preserve and promote local indigenous varieties of seeds;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (d) the details of the programmes/ campaigns run by the Government to educate the farmers to use quality seeds in agriculture; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated and utilized during each of the last three years in this regard, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 495 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH APRIL, 2015.

(a): The seed banks functioning in the country include one at the national level with National Seeds Corporation (NSC), and one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana and Orissa. Moreover one seed bank each has been setup with State Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2014-15. Thus, in total there are 20 functioning seed banks in the country. There are 126 public sector seed testing laboratories functioning in the country including two Central Seeds Testing Laboratories (one at National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi and another in Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur). The State wise/ UT-wise list of Seed testing laboratories is at Annexure- I.

In addition, Gene Banks are in operation under National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and ICAR's national active germplasm sites in different states with the objectives to collect, characterize, evaluate, conserve and to make available germplasm including land races, wild species and traditional varieties of different crops for research purposes and act as a germplasm custodian. These gene banks also conserve local varieties. The details are given at Annexure II.

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) under Ministry of Agriculture has also established a National Gene Bank at NBPGR campus, New Delhi and four Field Gene Banks at Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, at its Regional Centre, Mashobra, (Himachal Pradesh), Birsa Agriculture University Ranchi (Jharkhand), Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri (Maharashtra) for depositing seeds and planting material including parental line seeds of the registered varieties in the National Gene Bank for reproduction purpose.

(b) & (c): The Government has no proposal at present to open more new seed banks and seed laboratories in the country. However, State Government may open new seed banks and seed laboratories depending on their requirement. To preserve and promote local indigenous varieties of seeds, the National Gene Bank (NGB) at NBPGR, New Delhi has the capacity to store about 10 lakh seed accessions and presently holds about 4.14 lakhs accessions, as base collections, under long-term storage. The NGB at NBPGR, New Delhi is a highly capital-intensive facility and is large enough to store seeds for local crop varieties for posterity.

(d): The programmes / campaigns being run by the Government to educate and encourage farmers to use quality seeds in agriculture include training programmes, extension activities, intervention on cropping based training on crop production management, exhibitions / Kisan Melas/ Kisan Ghostis, Seed Minikit's Demonstration as a part of the following Seed Projects;

(i) Seed Village Programme under Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET).

(ii) Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms through Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) a

component of Centrally Sponsored Scheme Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET).

(iii) All India Coordinated Research Project-National Seed Project (Crops) and ICAR Seed Project.

(iv) National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP).

(v) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

(e): The details of funds allocated / utilized during last three years States/ UTs wise are enclosed at Annexure-III, IV, V, VI and VII respectively.