

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5561
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
SALE OF SPURIOUS SEEDS
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the farmers are plagued by the sale of spurious seeds in the market in various States of the country including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring any strict law to punish the companies selling spurious seeds and to compensate the farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to supply good quality seeds to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): No Complaints regarding supply of spurious seeds to farmers has been reported by Rajasthan State. However, States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana have reported few cases of supply of spurious seeds. The details of complaints of supply of spurious seeds during last two years and action taken is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): To further strengthen the seed quality regime, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has introduced the Seeds Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha.

The quality of seeds supplied to the farmers is ensured through the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 under which State Governments have been empowered to appoint seed inspectors, establish Seed Testing Laboratories and take appropriate measures to curb the sale of spurious seeds in the country. In addition, for ensuring supply of quality seeds to the farmers, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a "Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology", under which assistance is provided for strengthening and modernizing seed infrastructure facilities, upgrading the quality of farm saved seed through the seed village programme, production and distribution of quality seeds, establishing Seed Banks for ensuring seed availability in contingent situations, establishing and strengthening quality control infrastructure facilities in the country, etc.