

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2989

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016

Supply of Spurious Seeds

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received several complaints from various States including Maharashtra relating to supply of fake/substandard quality seeds to the farmers which resulted in reduction of more than 50 percent in germination capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on the agricultural production along with the details of decline in annual agricultural production during the last three years;
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to make strict law/legislation relating to germination of seeds; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to provide quality seeds to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

श्री अजमल सिराजुद्दीन, श्री बशीर ए. टी. मुहम्मद, श्री बलराम धराम्बिर, श्री जापुरिया सुखबिर सिंह, श्री काशिक श्री रमेश चण्देर, श्री पटोले श्री नानाभाऊ फाल्गुनराव, श्री यादव श्री ओम प्रकाश (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c): A few cases of supply of spurious seeds were reported by the States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. However, there is no report regarding the impact on agricultural production due to such sporadic cases. The overall agricultural production in the country has remained robust during the last three years despite of adverse climatic conditions. Details of complaints of supply of spurious seeds received from the State Governments for the last three years and action taken is at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e): To further strengthen the seed quality regime, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has introduced the Seeds Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha which will have provision for enhanced penalty for sale of spurious/fake seed, compulsory registration of seed varieties, seed health standards, labeling of expected performance of seed varieties, regulation of seed price under emergent situations, compensation in case of failure of seeds etc.