

**Title:** Need to patent rice produced in the basin of Ravi and Beas in Gurdaspur District, Punjab.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA (GURDASPUR): I rise to apprise the Government of my concern on basmati paddy of Punjab. Paddy is an important crop to food security as it constitutes 44 per cent of total foodgrains consumption in the country and occupies 23 per cent of gross sown area. Paddy is a major kharif crop of Punjab because almost 60 per cent farmers depend on it out of which 3 to 4 per cent of farmers necessarily sow basmati paddy. The basmati of Gurdaspur is considered 'top quality' rice in the world. Ravi & Beas, in Gurdaspur, have the world's rare basins where basmati crops are sown. The Government of India should make concerted efforts in protecting this basmati seed. Basmati crop is an organic crop naturally available in India. The aroma of basmati is because of the hard work put in by our generations and we should not lose it to foreign companies. Basmati is the most quality-sensitive crop and it sells at a premium price. International companies are inclined to grab basmati seed of Gurdaspur. I request the Government to protect basmati of Gurdaspur.