

Title: Need to ensure availability of good quality seeds at subsidised rates to the farmers of Bihar through Central Agencies.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the poor condition of farmers in the country, particularly farmers in Aurangabad District of Bihar which is my Parliamentary constituency.

The farmers in Bihar are presently facing scarcity of high quality wheat seeds and this has dashed the hopes of the farmers who may have nursed hopes of making good the losses they had suffered owing to the floods that ravaged vast areas of Bihar earlier this year. As the wheat sowing season comes to a close, there is little hope of availability of subsidised and certified wheat seeds that the State Government used to provide them in the past. As a result thereof, the farmers have been forced to either buy sub-standard or spurious seeds at high rates or to forego sowing the wheat crop. A large number of poor, small and marginal farmers are being forced to opt for the poor quality seeds which may result in a shortfall in the production of wheat. This is the third consecutive year in which the farmers have suffered. Last year, no seeds could be distributed even after the State Cabinet's decision to provide seeds to farmers free of cost in the flood hit districts.

Keeping in view the poor condition of farmers in Bihar and particularly in Aurangabad District, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide good quality seeds and at a subsidised price to the farmers there through the Central Government agencies/the PSUs directly.