

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3243**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/03/2018

**MISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH YIELDING SEEDS**

3243. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

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

- (a) whether Government has initiated any mission for development of high yielding quality seeds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the budget allocations for this purpose, if any, during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to make high yielding seeds available to farmers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
**(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Crop Science Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its 21 Research Institutes, 03 Bureaux, 02 National Research Centres, 02 Project Directorates, 22 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRP) and 10 Network Research Projects, and with active collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) collectively called as National Agricultural Research System (NARS), is engaged in the development of improved crop varieties/hybrids, cost-effective production and environment-friendly crop protection technologies to

enhance crop productivity and ensure food and nutritional security in the country. The Institutes are located in different parts of the country and developing the area specific technologies. The AICRPs, which are coordinated and funded (75%) by ICAR are located in SAUs, also have the mandate of developing seeds of trait-specific high yielding crop varieties and hybrids, suitable to specific areas/agro-climatic zones. As a result of these efforts, since 1969 till January 2018, 4723 improved field crop varieties have been developed which include 2415 of cereals, 797 of oilseeds, 891 of pulses, 154 of forage crops, 333 of fiber crops, 100 of sugarcane and 33 of potential crops. Among these, highest number of varieties have been released in rice (1021), followed by wheat (395) and maize (330).

From May 2014 to December, 2017, 645 varieties of different field crops comprising of 349 of cereals (Rice-165, Wheat- 48, Barley-9, Maize-65, Millets-62); 98 of oilseeds (Rapeseed mustard- 28, Soybean-16 Groundnut-15 Linseed-13 Sesame-6 Niger-5 Sunflower-8 Safflower-2 Castor-5); 89 of pulses (Mungbean-18, Urdbean-6, Chickpea-23, Lentil-11, Pigeonpea-8, Cowpea-7, Fieldpea-9, Rajmash-1, Horsegram-5, Fababean-1, Clusterbean-1 Mothbean-1); 73 of commercial crops (Cotton-37, Jute-7, Mesta-2, Kenef-3, Roselle-2, Sunhemp-1, Ramie-1, Sugarcane-20); 36 of forage crops (Pearl millet-4, Forage sorghum-4, Cowpea-4, Guinea grass-3, Oat-11, Rice bean-3, Lucerne-2, Napier x Bajra hybrid-1, Marvel Grass- 2, Grain Amranthus-1, Forage Sewan grass-1) have been developed by National Agricultural Research System (NARS) through AICRPs.

**(c) Budget allotted to crop science Division:**

2017-18 (RE): Rs. 400.00 crores

2018-19 (BE): Rs. 800.00 crores

**Budget allotted under Pulses Seed Hubs for three years from Kharif 2016:**

Additional Breeder Seed Production of Pulses: Rs. 2039 lakhs

Seed Hubs on Pulses for quality seed production: Rs. 22500 lakhs

(d) ICAR is mandated with producing quality seed of high yielding varieties and making it available to farming community. Under the aegis of ICAR, Indian Institute of Seed Science, Mau is coordinating two nation-wide network projects viz. AICRP-NSP (Crops) and ICAR Seed Project pertinent to quality seed production. Under the ambit of AICRP-NSP (Crops) breeder seed production programme is being coordinated, whereas, ICAR Seed Project is aimed at strengthening of infrastructure pertinent to seed domain of NARS. Under the ambit of ICAR, AICRP-NSP (Crops), breeder seed production during 2016-17 was 1.22 lakh quintals against the target of 1.04 lakh quintals surpassing both DAC&FW and

State indents. Total 1169 varieties are under breeder seed chain (2016-17) and these are contributing immensely towards high production leading to national food security.

The DAC&FW, MOA&FW, Govt. of India is assisting the State Governments and other seed producing agencies for seed related activities through various ongoing schemes/ programmes of the Department including National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) etc. for making high yielding seeds available to the farmers. During last three years 343.52 lakh q (2015-16), 380.29 lakh q (2016-17) and 419.41 lakh q (2017-18) quality seed was produced and made available to the farmers.

One of the recent initiative is creation of seed hubs for production of quality seeds and enhancing breeder seed production of pulses. ICAR and DAC&FW under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India are jointly working on a road map to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses with a comprehensive action plan under centrally sponsored scheme of National Food Security Mission (NFSM). For augmenting the availability of quality seeds of pulses to the farmers, ICAR is implementing an NFSM project to establish 150 “Seed-hubs on Pulses” in the country involving 7 at ICAR Institutes, 46 at AICRP Centres (SAUs) and 97 at KVKs across 24 states. The project has made a good headway as about 52422 q quality seed of 11 different pulses was produced during 2016-17 against a target of about 41455 q and during kharif 2017-18 about 37894 q quality seed produced against a target of about 36960 q. Each seed-hub has been given a target of supplying minimum 1000 quintals quality seeds of different pulses, annually by 2018-19.

For strengthening the breeder seed chain of pulses, ICAR is also implementing another NFSM project on “Additional Breeder Seed Production of Pulses” with suitable and popular varieties of pulses at 12 locations of ICAR/SAUs in 8 major states in the country to produce an additional quantity of 3717 q breeder seed by the end of 2017-18 and cumulative 5801 q by the end of 2018-19 over and above the existing level of breeder seed production of pulses in the country. About 6005 q additional breeder seed of six major pulses was produced against a target of about 3717 q during 2016-17, and 930 q additional breeder seed during kharif 2017-18 against a target of about 709 q.

\*\*\*\*\*