

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2736
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24/03/2023

PROTECTING TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

2736. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

- (a) the new schemes formulated by Government for the protection and promotion of traditional agricultural products;
- (b) whether Government is also planning to expand research centres to conduct research to improve the existing varieties of agricultural products and seeds and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether a Community Seed Bank has been established by Government and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, Government is giving due attention to conserve the traditional varieties/ farmers' varieties and land races of various crops. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi has conserved 96,718 traditional varieties/ farmers varieties/ land races in the National Gene Bank for long term storage out of which 14,177 accessions are of traditional varieties.

For the protection and promotion of traditional agricultural crops like millets and traditional varieties of other crops the subsidy on seeds is also available /provided to the farmers under Seed Village Programme as well as National Food Security Mission.

(c): Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) has registered 2,030 farmers'/ traditional varieties of seeds (up to 21st March, 2023). Moreover, the PPV&FRA encourages the community and individuals engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of plant genetic resources by awarding the community and individuals who have played stellar roles in such activities. Accordingly, PPV&FRA has supported two Community Seed Banks at Karnataka during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19.
