

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3220
ANSWERED ON- 28/03/2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF SECOND NATIONAL GENE BANK

3220. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has announced the establishment of a second National GeneBank in the 2025-26 budget to safeguard India's agricultural biodiversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the establishment of Gene Bank will strengthen India's position as a leader in global biodiversity conservation, if so, efforts taken in this regard; and
- (d) the initiatives taken to safeguard India's invaluable plant genetic resources in order to support both public and private sectors involved in genetic resource management across the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Yes, the Government has announced the establishment of the second National Gene Bank to conserve 10 lakh crop germplasm for future food and nutritional security. This announcement is one of the initiatives under the theme "Investing in innovations" of Union Budget 2025-26.

(c) & (d): The National Gene Bank (NGB) at ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is the second largest Gene Bank globally with 4,71,561 accessions of 2157 species. The plant genetic resources conserved in the NGB are available for use by both public and private sector agencies involved in crop improvement and management of genetic resources in the country. Establishment of the Second Gene Bank with state-of-art infrastructure with the capacity of conserving 10 lakh germplasm is aimed at strengthening India's position as a leader in global biodiversity conservation.
