

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2nd APRIL, 2025

Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited and Research Organisations

3525 Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde:
Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala:
Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:
Smt. Maya Naroliya:
Shri Narayana Koragappa:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific measures taken to ensure the timely availability of high-quality seeds under the Bharat Beej brand to farmers, especially in remote and rural areas;
- (b) the steps being taken to increase awareness about the use of quality seeds and adoption among small and marginal farmers; and
- (c) the manner in which Government regulate and monitor private sector participation in the seed distribution network to maintain quality and affordability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. The BBSSL will undertake production, procurement & distribution of quality seeds under single brand name 'Bharat Beej' through cooperative network to improve crop yield. So far, 19,674 cooperative societies have become members of BBSSL. BBSSL has obtained seed license from 13 states. The efficient logistics arrangement of BBSSL will ensure the timely availability of high-quality seeds under the Bharat Beej brand to farmers including remote and rural areas.

(b) State Department(s) of Agriculture through their Agricultural extension services etc. organizes training sessions, workshops, and Front-Line Demonstration (FLD), Cluster Front Line Demonstration (CFLD), and other demonstration programs, farmers' training, Farmers' field schools under various schemes for increasing awareness in farmers about use of quality

seeds. Besides, BBSSL has also decided to increase awareness about the use of Bharat Beej brand quality seeds and adoption among small and marginal farmers by following methods:

- i. Awareness campaign through social media and the BBSSL website.
- ii. Organizing farmers' meets at various levels.
- iii. Conducting regional workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- iv. Showcasing demonstrations and participating in promotional events at national, state, and regional levels.

(c) Sufficient provisions are available under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and amendments thereon to regulate the quality of seeds sold in the market. The above-said seed legislation empowers the State Governments to check the quality of seeds and curb the sale of sub-standard/spurious seeds.

Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare allocates breeder Seeds of various crops to the State and private Seeds companies also against their breeder indents received one year in advance for the production of foundation and certified Seeds for distribution to the farmers.

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of India has already launched Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal - Seed Traceability for effective monitoring, efficiency and transparency covering Seed chain from Nucleus-Breeder-Foundation-Certified Seed on 19th April, 2023. The private agencies are also involved including Seed dealers' and distributors and whole supply chain has been planned to be tracked through the SATHI portal.
