

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 644
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

SAFEGUARDS UNDER THE SEED BILL, 2025

644. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Seed Bill 2025 has included farmer-friendly provisions to help farmers receive quick compensation for crop losses from non-germinating seeds without lengthy legal procedures;
- (b) whether the Bill has ensured that community seed keepers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are not burdened with the same digital and bureaucratic conditions imposed on commercial seed companies;
- (c) whether Government has acknowledged that uniform seed standards may sideline traditional diverse climate-resilient varieties;
- (d) whether Government has noted the concerns that standardised Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) trials favour corporate hybrids; and
- (e) in what manner the Bill will prevent excluding indigenous seeds from markets?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India has drafted the Seeds Bill, 2025 to align with current requirements and after taking into consideration the issues raised by various stakeholders from time to time. The objective of the Bill is to regulate the quality of seeds supplied to the farmers. Compensation for seed failure will be dealt as per the existing laws. The provisions of the Bill are not applicable to the farmers and farmer's varieties including traditional varieties. The Bill protect the farmer's rights in conformity with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 to grow, sow, save, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds.

The Bill has provisions for compulsory registration of all varieties sold in the market, registration of seed producer, seed processing unit and dealer, registration of plant nurseries, regulation of seed sale prices under emergent situation, compulsory labelling of performance of seeds, mandatory on boarding on SATHI portal etc.

Furthermore, standardised Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) trials are being conducted and coordinated under the supervision of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with the same guidelines for testing crop varieties under All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Projects of ICAR.

In addition, various provisions are available under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right's Act, 2001 to safeguard farmers, traditional and indigenous seed varieties.

At present, the draft Seeds Bill, 2025 is at the pre-legislative consultation phase and placed in public domain for inviting comments/suggestions.
