

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 514
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY, 2018

SEED BANKS

514. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Government seed banks being operated in the country, Statewise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up and promote the said seed banks at districts/block/division level;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the ways to make these seed banks easily accessible to the farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details and findings thereof along with the details of success achieved by the Government under the programmes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a): There are 22 seed banks functioning in the country including one at national level with National Seeds Corporation and 21 in different States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These seed banks supply seeds to the farmers during contingency situation like flood, drought etc.
- (b) & (c): At present, there is no proposal with the Government to set up seed banks at districts/block division level.
- (d) & (e): A study has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta in November, 2007 for evaluation of the Central Sector Scheme on Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for production and Distribution of Quality Seeds which included establishment maintenance of Seed Banks. The report recommended that the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation Farmers Welfare identify risk prone areas and calculate total seed requirement to cater to exigencies and earmark places in relatively risk free zone taking into account connectivity factors for setting up of seed banks. The report further suggested that the network of Seed Banks should be under the control of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare through a single agency like National Seed Corporation or State Department of Agriculture, and that the State Seed Corporations act as nodes in the management of the seed banks in the country. The State Governments have been reserving quantities of seed every year as per their assessment of requirements in the event of natural calamities.
