

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 562**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/02/2018

**PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL SEEDS**

562. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to launch a scheme to promote and preserve the varieties of traditional seeds/crops in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the farmers are being made aware about dealing with the challenge of climate change by preserving traditional crops and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set any targets for storage of traditional varieties of crops; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**A N S W E R**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
**(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi is the nodal institute at national level for collection, characterization, evaluation, preservation/conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources. Indigenous/ traditional varieties conserved at NBPGR are multiplied as per the viability aspects of the seeds and seeds of these varieties are shared with scientists on request for promotion and their use in breeding programmes. In this context, ICAR-NBPGR has already collected and conserved seeds of **76799** traditional varieties/ landraces of different agri-horticultural crops (**Table-1**). This activity is being regularly carried-out based on the gaps in conservation.

Further, to encourage the farmers, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI confers 35 awards annually amounting to 85 Lakhs to farmers and farming communities who are involved in the conservation of plant genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of different crops.

(b) Farmers are made aware about the impending challenges of climate change by way of the capacity building programmes being taken up as part of the Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) of ‘*National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture*’ (NICRA). TDC is being implemented across 151 climatically vulnerable districts across the country. Under TDC, context- and location-specific climate resilient practices and technologies are demonstrated in farmers’ participatory mode to address current climatic variability faced in one cluster of villages in each district. Some of the traditional crops, such as millets play an important role towards nutritional security and also in adapting to climate change. As such these crops are also part of the Training programs on various aspects of climate change, the causes, the impacts, the options available in addressing the climate change. Millet based systems were promoted where millets are the traditional crops of the region. For example, the *Setaria* based system in Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh, the sorghum based system in Pune, Jalna and Aurangabad districts of Maharashtra, the finger millet based system in Tumkur district of Karnataka as part of the TDC of NICRA. Emphasis has been given in preserving the traditional crops of the region and enhancing the productivity of these crops by way of various management practices.

Further, awareness on importance of cultivation of traditional varieties/landraces to deal with climate change is created regularly among the farmers through the meetings/awareness programmes organizing under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and *Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav* (MGMG) schemes.

**(c) & (d):** Being the nodal institute, ICAR-NBPGR has conserved approximately **76799** accessions of traditional varieties/ landraces of different crops in the National Genebank (NGB) for long-term storage (**Table-1**).

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**Table-1**

[Part (a) and (c) &amp; (d) of Lok Sabha USQ No. 562 for 06/02/2018]

**Crop group-wise Traditional varieties/Landraces conserved in National Genebank**

| <b>Crop Groups</b>   | <b>No. of Accessions Conserved</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cereals              | 17927                              |
| Millets              | 15976                              |
| Grain Legumes        | 10272                              |
| Oilseeds             | 21250                              |
| Forages              | 1413                               |
| Fibre crops          | 258                                |
| Vegetables           | 6032                               |
| Pseudo-cereals       | 1475                               |
| Medicinal & aromatic | 882                                |
| Spices               | 946                                |
| Ornamentals          | 17                                 |
| Fruits & Nuts        | 8                                  |
| Agro-forestry        | 343                                |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>76799</b>                       |

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