

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3249**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/01/2019

**DEVELOPMENT OF VARIETIES OF SEEDS**

3249. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

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

- (a) whether the farmers in the country are dependent on seeds developed by Multinational Corporations and private companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government allocates funds for development of new seeds varieties by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other agricultural universities; and
- (d) if so, the funds allocated during the last three years for the purpose and the number of seeds varieties developed so far by ICAR and other agriculture universities?

**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) & (b):** Farmers in the country are not dependent on seeds developed by multinational corporations and private seed companies except hybrids of *Bt* cotton, maize, pearl millet and sunflower.

Crop Science Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its 21 Research Institutes, 03 Bureaux, 02 National Research Centres, 02 Project Directorates, 22 All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and 10 Network Research Projects in active collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) is engaged in the development of eco-friendly, improved seed (crop) varieties/ hybrids, to enhance crop productivity and ensure food and nutritional security in the country. Development of varieties is a continuous process as per the mandate of the crop based institutes.

ICAR is mandated to produce breeder seed of all released and notified varieties as per the indents received from Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare, which in turn is converted to other classes of seeds viz., foundation and certified through multiplication by different agencies for availability to the farmers. Breeder seed indents and production of various released and notified varieties under the AICRP on NSP (Crops) during last four years is as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Indent (q)</b>	<b>Production (q)</b>
2014-15	86292.2	100074.8
2015-16	122159.6	127823.4
2016-17	104045.7	122616.2
2017-18	98047.8	118665.8

**(c) & (d):** Yes, Madam. Under the different schemes of Crop Science Division, ICAR, the budget allocated/utilized during the financial years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is Rs. 48168.68 lakhs, Rs. 43420.89 lakhs and Rs. 36965.97 lakhs, respectively, whereas, during the current financial year (2018-19), total Budget Estimate (BE) is Rs. 191883 lakhs.

Since 2015, total of 850 stress tolerant, high yielding, improved quality, agro-climatic zone specific varieties have been developed under different AICRPs by crop based ICAR Institutes and SAUs; which comprised of 447 of cereals, 128 of oilseeds, 121 of pulses, 72 of fibre crops, 53 of forage crops, 28 of sugarcane and 1 of other crop.

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