

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4539
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8th JANUARY, 2019

DEMAND FOR QUALITY SEEDS

4539. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is huge demand for quality seeds in the agriculture sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is true that there is no proper mechanism for sale of seeds to meet the demand of farmers on timely basis;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note that there is a need to strengthen and incentivize the informal seeds production and distribution system in the country to ensure ease of agriculture in the country;
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to put any mechanism to ensure adequate availability of quality seeds round the year to all farmers; and
- (f) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Yes, Madam. The demand for quality seeds in the Country for the current year 2018-19 is 353.55 lakh quintals against which the production/availability is 398.89 lakh quintals.

(b) & (c): The breeder seeds produced for 2018-19 by Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutions (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are 105085 quintals for further production of foundation seeds in 2018-19 and then certified/quality seeds in 2019-20 by State Department of Agriculture, State Seeds Corporations, State Seed Farms, SAUs farms, ICAR Institutions, National Seed Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Insecticide Ltd., Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, Indian Farm Forestry Development Cooperative Limited, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd, State Seed Cooperatives etc. The produced certified/quality seeds are sold/distributed to farmers to meet the demand on timely basis. In addition, private seed companies are also producing foundation seeds and then certified/quality seeds and sell to the farmers.

Contd....2/-

To meet the requirement of seed during natural calamity situations like flood, drought etc. one percent of total seed requirement i.e. 371881 quintals for 2018-19 kept in the National Seed Reserve and is being implementing by about 22 implementing agencies in the Country.

The Government of India provides the financial assistance to the States and seed producing agencies for production and distribution of seeds through various ongoing crop development programmes/schemes viz. National Food Security Mission, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials) etc.

(d) to (f): The Government is implementing Seed Village Programme under Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials to upgrade the quality of farmer's saved seeds by providing the financial assistance for distribution of foundation/certified seeds at 50% cost for cereal crops and 60% for pulses, oilseeds, fodder and green manure crops for one acre per farmer. Assistance of Rs.15000 is also provided for training of farmers on seed production and technology to produce quality seeds.

To encourage the farmers to produce good quality seeds at village itself, Government is providing financial assistance of Rs. 60 lakh each for setting of 500 MT capacity seed processing cum storage godown in the Country.
