

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 921**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

**MONO-CROPPING OF HYBRID VARIETIES**

921. SHRI ARUN SAO:  
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:  
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:  
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that majority of farmers have lost their heritage seeds of wheat and rice varieties, once owned traditionally by their community forefathers, due to mono-cropping of hybrids;
- (b) if so, the details thereof especially for the State of Chhattisgarh; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government for identification and conservation of such heritage varieties of wheat and rice which have unique nutritional, medicinal and ecological qualities and climate resilience across the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): No Sir, it is not true that farmers have lost their heritage seeds of Wheat and Rice varieties once owned by their community forefathers due to mono-cropping of hybrids. The traditional varieties have low yield potential, tall plant height and late maturity duration which restricted the farmers for their cultivation in large areas, however the maximum area of Wheat and Rice is under improved varieties developed by using traditional varieties as parents.

Moreover, the varieties of different crops including traditional varieties have been conserved in the National Gene Bank at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. The various collections of traditional varieties from Chhattisgarh in case of wheat and rice are 9 and 11,475 respectively.

ICAR-NBPGR has conserved 95,602 traditional varieties / farmers varieties/ land races of various crops in the National Gene Bank for long term storage out of which 13,670 accessions are of traditional varieties.

(c): In order to conserve the traditional varieties Government has taken several steps for main streaming of traditional varieties of rice including state of Chhattisgarh. Nutritional profiling of 437 accessions of rice landraces, from Assam (295), Chhattisgarh (67), Uttarakhand (63) and Himachal Pradesh (12) was done for important nutritional traits.

Besides State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), farmers etc. are also conserving the unique land races / traditional varieties having nutritional, medicinal properties, ecological qualities and climate resilience.

In addition, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) confers Plant Genome Saviour Community Award (to five farming communities each of Rs.10 lakh cash with citation and memento), Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward (to ten individual farmers each of Rs.1.50 lakh cash with citation and memento) and Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition (20 individual farmers each recognition consisting of Rs.1.00 lakh in cash with citation and memento) to farmers/ farming communities who have conserved genetic resources of land races and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation etc. on a yearly basis.

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