

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1022
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2023

SEED EXPORT

1022. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian seed industry is worth INR 22,000 crore and is constantly growing but the share of India's seed export in the global seed trade is less than 1%, if so, the details thereof including the measures taken by the Ministry to promote seed export; and
- (b) the steps and measures taken by the Government to promote private sector investment in agricultural research and development in the country?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): As per International Seed Federation data, India's share in global seed exports during 2020 was 1.14%. The Government has been taking several measures to promote export of seeds. India has been a member of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes since October, 2008. India is participating in six OECD Seed Schemes viz. Cereals, Maize, Sorghum, Crucifers and other oil or fibre species, Grasses and Legumes and Vegetables. Participating in the OECD Seed Schemes facilitate the international trade among the member countries by using globally recognized labels and certificates. Since India joined OECD seed schemes, more than 250 Indian varieties of various aforesaid crops have been enlisted in OECD list of varietal certifications. Financial support is also provided to State seed certification agencies for implementation of OECD Seed Schemes to add to the seed exports from India.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is also promoting membership of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). ISTA is engaged in developing standard seed testing methods, facilitates the trade of quality seeds and makes a valuable contribution to food security. There are eight ISTA accredited member laboratories functioning in India.

The Government of India has also signed Seam Reap Protocol of Discussion for collaboration in the seed sector with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal & Sri Lanka and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The Protocol covers following activities: (i) Joint

varietal evaluation and release (ii) Reciprocal recognition of evaluation data for varietal release (iii) Reducing time for the evaluation of varieties released in neighboring countries to be considered for commercialization in similar agro-ecologies (iv) Reducing time for evaluation for varieties generated using Marker Assisted breeding (v) Provision of Pre-release seed multiplication & promotion (vi) Encouraging private sector by providing level-playing field for their engagement and (vii) Harmonization of seed system guidelines and regulations across the partner countries.

(b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated a policy for investment by the private companies through their Corporate Social Responsibility Funds. In the field of seed science & technology, ICAR is engaged in carrying out basic, strategic and anticipatory research through its Indian Institute of Seed Science, Mau (UP) apart from coordination of nation-wide network project in seed realm i.e. All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Seed (Crops). ICAR-IISS, Mau has strong linkages with the private sector institutions for carrying out collaborative research programmes. A number of collaborative research projects have been implemented with private partners.
