

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1594**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

**TESTING OF IMPORTED SEEDS**

1594 SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether imported seeds are being tested for suitability for local performance before being registered or being allowed for sale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India allows for seed imports from countries that grow transgenic varieties;
- (d) if so, the details of such imports in the past three years;
- (e) whether the testing labs have equipments for testing of transgenic and gene edited seeds with primers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the State Governments will be empowered to register seeds that are suitable in their jurisdiction and disallow those that are not suitable or tested for the State, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री ( SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, the import of seeds and planting material is regulated through the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 and amendments made therein. Small quantity of seeds in case of cereals, millets, pulses, oil seeds and fodder etc. allowed to be imported for multi-location trials by ICAR and/or in-house trial by the importer. If the material/ seeds is found better than existing variety then bulk import may be permitted for two years

(c) & (d): No transgenic seeds are allowed to be imported for commercial purpose in the country.

(e): On the recommendation of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change four laboratories namely (i) National bureau of Plant Genetic Resource (NBPGR), New Delhi; (ii) Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali; (iii) DNA Fingerprinting and Transgenic Crop Monitoring Laboratory, Hyderabad; and Export Inspection Agency, Kochi are notified for testing of GM crops by Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare.

(f): State Seed Sub-Committee working under the State Department of Agriculture is empowered to release/ recommend the variety for notification, if found suitable to their state.

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