

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4900**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL, 2025

**SEED QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM**

4900. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the experts and industry partners have asked the Centre to revisit and modernize the Seeds Bill of 2004 and the Seeds Policy of 2022 to incorporate the latest developments in the sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the country's seed quality assurance system is weak and needs to be strengthened on issues such as adhering to international standards and upgradation of seed analysts, if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds Rules, 1968 have not been revised till now, if so the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering to bring in a new Seeds Act and Policy in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Adequate provisions are available under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and amendments thereon to ensure quality of seeds supplied to the farmers. These legislations empowered State Governments to appoint seed inspectors, establish Seed Testing Laboratories and take appropriate measures to curb the sale of spurious / sub-standard seeds in the country.

To further strengthen the seed quality regime, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has introduced the Seeds Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill has been revisited and revised as per the present suitability in consultation with various stakeholders.

At present, 176 notified seed testing laboratories are working across the Country. Out of that two have accredited by International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and seven have accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

Further, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal-Seed Traceability for effective monitoring, efficiency and transparency covering Seed chain from Nucleus-Breeder-Foundation-Certified Seed on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The most of the States have already onboarded on SATHI portal.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also providing financial assistance to States and various implementing agencies for Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratory, Specialized Seed Health Testing unit and DNA Finger Printing facilities, Grow-Out-Test farms, Green House facility, organizing Trainings on seed related aspects including officials engaged in Seed testing and also for payment of ISTA fees and technical audit of seed testing labs under Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials under National Food Security & Nutrition Mission.

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