

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3818
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2025

PRICE OF SEEDS

3818. DR. ANAND KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the high cost of farming due to excessive increase in the price of seeds by seed manufacturing companies in the market due to increased demand of hybrid seeds by farmers during sowing of crops;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme/plan to promote high yielding conventional indigenous/local seeds like paddy, wheat, millet etc. if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up seed banks at district/division level for such indigenous seeds so that farmers' dependence on hybrid seeds and the price of hybrid seeds in the market can be reduced, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In order to provide farmers access to quality seeds at affordable prices, several initiatives have been undertaken by the government including strengthening R&D & production of seed through public sector; strengthening seed related infrastructure and creating legal framework and regulatory mechanism.

To ensure new and improved variety of seeds become available to farmers, the government through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) and other institutions, has released and notified 3,053 improved varieties of seeds, including hybrids, during the last ten years. Further, to ensure these seeds are produced and become available to farmer on time at affordable price, produce

and supply seeds to farmers through national and state level seed corporations, cooperatives and agencies. Even these agencies have been strengthened and new agencies like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL) have also been involved in the seed production.

Besides, to ensure that the new varieties are adopted by farmers financial assistance is provided for making these seeds available to farmers, including hybrids, at subsidised rates or free of cost under schemes such as the **National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM)**, **National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–Oilseeds)** and **RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY) etc.** Additionally, interventions like establishment of Seed Hubs, fostering of new varieties, creation of seed infrastructure, maintenance of the National Seed Reserve, demonstrations, farmer training and Strategic Adaptive Research Support are also extended under various schemes to promote high-yielding conventional as well as indigenous and local seeds to farmers, thereby reducing cost of cultivation.

Through the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, government has also created effective legal ecosystem to ensure quality of seeds become available to farmers by curbing unethical practices. Further under the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015, the maximum sale price of cotton seeds is also regulated by the Government of India.

(c): At present, there is no proposal to set up seed banks at district/division level exclusively for indigenous seeds. However, under the NFSNM component “**Boosting Seed Production of Traditional Varieties**”, assistance is provided for seed distribution, incentives for seed production, capacity building of farmers and establishment of seed banks. States are also promoting indigenous and traditional varieties through their own schemes and missions. Out of 3,053 varieties/hybrids released in the last ten years, 2,347 are varieties that can be reused by farmers in subsequent seasons, thereby reducing dependence on hybrid seeds.
