

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

COUNTERFEIT AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

4282. SHRI ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:

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

- (a) the steps taken to mitigate the proliferation of counterfeit seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and agricultural inputs;
- (b) whether any compensation has been provided to farmers who have lost livelihood or had low crop yields due to counterfeit agriculture inputs, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to curb the sale of expired seeds, low quality seeds and seeds coated with harmful dyes and treated in carcinogenic chemicals?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): In order to ensure availability of quality seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to the farmers, the various provisions are available in the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968, the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, Insecticide Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 etc. The above said legislations empowered the State Governments to check the quality of agricultural inputs and curb the sale of counterfeit seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in the Country.

The State Governments appoints the Quality Control Inspectors under relevant Acts for ensuring quality of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in their states. These Inspectors are empowered to draw the samples, send to laboratory for testing quality. In case any samples of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are found to be spurious/sub-standard, action taken as per the relevant provisions of Acts and Rules with respect to seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

In case of Crop failure due to counterfeit agriculture inputs, farmers can lodge their complaint with Inspector to initiate the legal action against suppliers, retailers,

manufacturers etc. The Inspector can take penal action namely cancellation of dealer license, seize the stock, issue of warning, issue 'Stop Sale' Order and file the case in the Court etc. if found agriculture inputs sub-standard/spurious.

Yield losses and related income losses to farmers are result of multiple factors including seed quality, weather disruption, soil health, package of practices followed pest and disease infestations etc. However, Government has taken necessary steps to ensure quality seeds become available to farmers by providing support to improve infrastructure for seed quality. There are 178 seed testing laboratories in the Country and 25 State Seed Certification Agencies are working under the supervision and control of various State Governments. Besides several public sector corporations and agencies are involved in quality seed production. Besides, Government also implements Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to mitigate the financial loss due to crop damage. Due to the concerted efforts of DA&FW and State Agriculture Department and implementation of various schemes in the agriculture sector, food grains production has increased from 297.50 Million Tons to 353.96 Million Tons in the country during the year 2019-20 to 2024-25 despite changing weather pattern.

Besides, Government of India also issues advisories time to time to all the States/UTs, to ensure implementation of existing legal framework strictly to stepped up vigil on the manufacturer premises and storage, sale point of dealers/retailers to check the sale of spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, so as to ensure supply of quality of agricultural inputs to the farmers in the Country.

As per the Seeds Act and Rules the seeds only within their validity period are allowed to sale to the farmers. The Seed Inspectors, found any low quality seeds or expired seeds, seeds coated with harmful dyes, treated with carcinogenic chemicals etc., the appropriate action like issue of warning, stop sale Order, seizure of stocks, and file the case in the court etc. are being done by the concerned State Government/UT.
