

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4359
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025

INFERIOR QUALITY SEEDS

4359. SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many farmers have been sold ineffective and inferior quality seeds in past 5 years, if so, the details of cases reported and action taken against responsible parties thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether any economic assessment has been carried out on yield losses, income foregone and market disruption caused by these ineffective seeds, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has compensated or is planning to compensate the associated farmers duped by these ineffective seeds, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the current status of public seed testing laboratories all over the country, their testing turnaround times and accreditation levels, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the mechanisms existing for farmers to lodge complaints, number of cases disposed-of within prescribed time limits; and
- (f) the measures the Government is taking to prevent such incidences in the future?

ANSWER

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

(a): Various provisions under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 are being implemented across the Country to ensure that quality seeds are available in the market for the benefit of farmers and to curb the sale of sub-standard/spurious seeds. Further, State Governments notify Seed Inspectors under the act to draw samples of seeds from the dealer/ retailers premises to check the quality of seeds and initiate legal action if seed samples are found sub-standard, and punitive action like cancelation of seed dealer license, seize the stock, issue of warning, issue 'Stop Sale' order and file the case in the Court etc. The details of State wise seed samples drawn and action taken against the defaulters during the last five years in the country is enclosed at Annexure I to V.

(b): 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.

(c): The action taken for enforcement of various seed laws for protecting farmers from poor quality seeds are provided in annexure I to V.

(d): At present, 178 notified Seed Testing laboratories (STLs) from public sector are working in the country, out of which ten STLs (one laboratory each in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and five laboratories of Rajasthan State) are National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited and two STLs (one laboratory each Telangana and Tamil Nadu) are International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) accredited. The Turned Around Time (ToT) of seed testing varies from crop to crop and provided in the Seed Testing Manual. The maximum time for 60 days as provided in the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 for declaring the result of the testing.

(e) & (f): In case of Crop failure due to sub-standard/spurious seeds, farmers can lodge complain with Seed Inspector to initiate the legal action against seed supplier. The Seed Inspector can take penal action namely cancelation of seed dealer licence, seize the stock, issue of warning, issue 'Stop Sale' Order and file the case in the Court etc if found sub-standard/spurious seeds. To ensure supply of quality seeds to the farmers, the Government of India also issues advisories to the States to ensure implementation of existing Seed legal framework strictly to curb the sale of sub-standard seeds in the Country. Besides, the Government takes several measures to strengthen legal framework including to provide the financial assistance (100% GoI share) to the states and implementing agencies (public sector) for purchase of equipments, construction of building, renovation, membership fee and technical audit of STLs for International Seed Testing

Association (ISTA) accreditation, Specialized Seed Health Lab and DNA finger printing facility, strengthening of Grow-Out-Test Farm, setting up of Green House facilities and capacity building etc under National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) Seed components (erstwhile Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material).

Government has also implemented digital traceability of seed production through SATHI Portal (Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory). Phase I of SATHI has implemented in 23 States/UTs, covering the complete seed production chain. Phase II of SATHI is being rolled out in some States.

Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2020-21

S.No.	State	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases sub-judice	No. of cases of forfeiture
1	Andhra Pradesh	10095	127	85	10	32	0	9	0
2	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	12821	88	0	5	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	3763	180	0	180	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	6561	159	17	105	102	16	86	1
6	Haryana	2725	16	1	11	4	0	4	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	686	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	J & k	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	1268	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	7869	298	145	4	7	0	7	0
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	M.P	13150	983	463	847	16	3	15	5
13	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Orrisa	6195	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	3636	138	106	78	0	0	0	0
16	Rajasthan	4881	106	106	3	0	0	0	0
17	Tamil Nadu	28092	454	293	1248	13	1500	0	0
18	Telangana	9995	209	209	209	209	0	209	0
19	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	UP	15740	299	40	18	0	0	0	0
21	Uttarakhand	482	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
22	West Bengal	38117	3218	87	310	0	0	0	0
23.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Puducherry	125	22	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total		166201	6353	1561	3028	383	1519	330	6

Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2021-2022

S. No.	State	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases sub-judice	No. of cases of forfeiture
1	Andhra Pradesh	10018	133	60	36	15	0	9	0
2	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	13184	36	2	2	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	3313	123	123	123	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	6814	126	12	137	102	42	0	0
6	Haryana	3213	12	4	8	0	0	0	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	332	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	J & k	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	10114	178	50	20	22	0	20	5
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	M.P	13570	871	484	788	0	0	4	10
13	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Orrisa	1143	199	0	0	0	2	0	0
15	Punjab	20754	189	141	145	4	2	0	0
16	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Tamil Nadu	52623	1744	1662	3025	168	3157	38	0
18	Telangana	10339	302	302	252	302	0	299	3
19	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	UP	18387	372	133	87	0	0	0	0
21	Uttarakhand	519	8	6	2	0	0	0	0
22	West Bengal	33905	3098	95	80	0	0	0	0
23	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Puducherry	111	51	4	0	0	0	0	0
Total		199111	7442	3078	4705	613	3203	370	18

Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2022-2023

S. No.	State	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases sub-judice	No. of cases of forfeiture
1	Andhra Pradesh	10658	133	18	64	54	1	15	1
2	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	14436	147	14	32	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	4433	168	168	0	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	7497	194	30	192	162	56	0	0
6	Haryana	3027	8	4	4	2	0	0	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	569	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	J & K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	9843	234	12	180	186	0	186	10
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	M.P	13176	1347	620	1082	0	0	0	1
13	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Odisha	1166	575	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Tamil Nadu	55407	1714	1316	2094	152	155	96	0
18	Telangana	11954	398	252	88	325	0	325	0
19	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	UP	17475	320	66	80	0	0	0	0
21	Uttarakhand	713	19	19	0	0	0	0	0
22	West Bengal	31396	2714	105	70	0	0	0	0
23	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Puducherry	119	36	9	0	0	0	0	0
Total		182641	8007	2633	3886	881	212	622	12

Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2023-2024

S. No.	State	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases sub-judice	No. of cases of forfeiture
1	Andhra Pradesh	12246	165	15	232	151	0	151	34
2	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	12582	154	0	40	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	6121	196	196	196	0	0	0	0
5	Gujarat	23883	537	194	204	288	150	0	0
6	Haryana	2784	39	24	5	1	0	1	0
7	Himachal Pradesh	618	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	J & K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Jharkhand	772	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	6894	76	10	66	0	0	66	0
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	M.P	17519	1539	855	1422	0	0	0	1
13	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Odisha	1553	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Tamil Nadu	19218	394	285	618	34	10	13	0
18	Telangana	11920	348	348	25	301	16	285	0
19	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	UP	17013	357	45	4	0	0	0	0
21	Uttarakhand	493	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	West Bengal	24888	1235	102	63	0	0	0	0
23	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Puducherry	60	15	7	0	0	0	0	0
Total		158564	5135	2081	2875	775	176	516	35

Seed Law Enforcement for the year 2024-2025

S. No.	State	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of stop sale orders issued	No. of cases filed in the court	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ Imprisonment awarded	No. of cases sub-judice	No. of cases of forfeiture
1	Andhra Pradesh	13888	186	186	232	31	1	31	13
2	Assam	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Bihar	14290	365	2	34	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	7218	326	0	326	0	0	0	0
5	Delhi	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	17346	507	79	0	403	137	266	0
7	Haryana	3336	63	19	0	38	0	18	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	720	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	J & K	578	9	45	8	8	3	5	0
10	Jharkhand	1588	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	10249	102	73	69	75	16	3	0
12	Kerala	3653	145	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Maharashtra	30333	1031	589	1189	442	85	442	52
14	MP	19716	1438	822	1406	6	0	0	0
15	Odisha	4449	1363	773	48	0	0	0	25
16	Puducherry	106	25	17	8	0	0	0	0
17	Punjab	5612	148	144	64	1	3	11	0
18	Rajasthan	6382	190	0	5	0	0	0	0
19	Tamil Nadu	52143	1565	1046	2112	115	55	60	0
20	Telangana	11946	247	173	109	212	0	69	0
21	Tripura	961	48	48	0	0	0	0	0
22	UP	17408	306	64	39	0	0	0	0
23	Uttarakhand	541	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	West Bengal	30267	24460	2178	5	0	0	0	0
Total		252876	32525	6260	5654	1331	300	905	90
