

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1559
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2025

VCU TESTING FOR SEEDS

1559. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:

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

- (a) the meaning and implication of the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) testing for seeds;
- (b) whether the Government has started Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) testing for seeds, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any protection for Indian farmers under the current International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY)

(a): Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) testing is a systematic evaluation process carried out to assess the agronomic performance and end-use suitability of a seed variety under different agro-climatic conditions. The implication of such testing ensures availability of varieties with proven performance and value to farmers.

(b): Value for cultivation and use (VCU) is similar to the current multi-location varietal evaluation as per the "Guidelines for Testing Crop Varieties under All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Projects" of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

(c) & (d): Yes. Article 9 of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) provides a framework for protection of Farmer's right to which India is a contracting party. India has incorporated its Farmers' Rights obligations primarily through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA), 2001.
