

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 640
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026
DRAFT SEED BILL 2025

640. SHRI M K RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the manner in which the draft Seeds Bill 2025, which proposes to replace the Seeds Act of 1966, aligns with India's commitments to protect farmers' rights and biodiversity in light of these global trends;
- (b) the key features of the draft Bill, including mandatory variety registration, centralised accreditation, traceability and penalties, and the manner in which they would affect small and marginal farmers;
- (c) whether specific safeguards have been included to ensure that traditional farming practices (such as saving, exchanging and reusing seeds) and indigenous seed diversity are protected and not adversely impacted;
- (d) the manner in which the draft Bill interacts with international intellectual property obligations and whether these could inadvertently facilitate corporate control over seeds; and
- (e) the consultations held with farmers' groups, seed experts and States on the draft Bill and the timeline for finalisation and enactment, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): The Bill has provisions for compulsory registration of all varieties sold in the market, accreditation of certification agencies to ensure uniform standards across the country, registration of seed producer, seed processing unit and dealer and distributors, registration of plant nurseries, regulation of seed sale prices under emergent situation, compulsory labelling of performance of seeds, mandatory on boarding on Central Traceability portal for traceability and rationalization of penalties for violations etc. These measures are intended to ensure the quality of seeds follow nationally determined standards supplied to the farmers thereby strengthening seed quality assurance. These provisions will ensure that quality seed reaches to farmers especially small and marginal farmers and result in increased production, higher income and mitigation of risk associated with seeds.

(c): The Bill explicitly safeguards the rights of farmers to grow, sow, save, exchange, sell their farm-saved seeds of any registered varieties. Further, the proposed Act will not be applicable to the farmers and exemptions have also been provided for traditional varieties and farmers' varieties.

(d): The draft Bill does not have any provision to create or confer any intellectual property rights over seeds. Issues relating to intellectual property are governed separately under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA), 2001. The Bill solely focuses on seed quality regulation and does not facilitate corporate control over seeds or dilute farmer's rights.

(e): Extensive consultations have been held with farmers' groups, seed experts, industry associations, and State Governments over a period of time. Pre-legislative consultation has also been conducted on draft Seed Bill and suggestions received have been examined. Due procedure as prescribed is to be followed for its finalization and enactment.
