

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1517
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/05/2016

IMPROVED VARIETIES OF SEEDS

1517. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:
DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO:

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

- (a) whether farmers are dependent only on the multinational companies for high quality and certified seeds due to failure of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to develop and provide high quality and certified seeds;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the types of high quality and certified seeds developed by various agricultural research centres of the country during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government has any mechanism to deliver the newly developed seeds to farmers at subsidized prices, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to develop the new types of high yielding varieties of seeds to increase the agricultural production?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Indian farmers are not dependent on multinational seed companies. However, only Bt cotton seed is supplied by multinational companies.

(c) The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) developed 261 varieties of field crops and provided 2.3 lakh quintal breeder seeds during last three years (2012-13 to 2014-15). The NARS in association with Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DoAC&FW) made available 347.31, 351.77 and 343.52 lakh quintals of certified/quality seeds during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively, to the farmers.

(d) The ICAR is producing breeder seed of newly developed varieties to different stakeholders, both public and private sector to produce foundation, certified and truthfully labeled seeds. Further, DoAC&FW, provides financial assistance for seed production and distribution through various central sector schemes.

(e) The Government of India has a strong system in place for developing new high yielding varieties of seeds. ICAR institutes and SAUs are actively involved to develop new varieties of different crops on regular basis.
