

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4401
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th MARCH, 2023

R&D IN SEED SECTOR

4401. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

- (a) the manner in which special incentives are being extended to private sector entities engaged in agriculture research;
- (b) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to encourage research & innovations in the seed sector; and
- (c) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to make sure that farmers receive good quality seeds?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) makes available the breeder seed of public sector bred varieties of different crops to the Private Sector as per their indents for downstream multiplication of foundation and certified seed. Private Sector bred varieties of different crops are tested under All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and around 13% of varieties released and notified since 2014 are from private sector. Public sector licenses the various high yielding trait specific new varieties/ hybrids to private sector for their seed production and marketing. Further, the various technologies and varieties/hybrids developed by Private sector are tested by the ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural University for their performance before recommendation by the state department of agriculture. The trait specific germplasm indented by the private sector for development of varieties/hybrids is shared by ICAR as per extant guidelines of Govt. of India and import of germplasm is also facilitated.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its 57 Institutes and 40 All India Coordinated Research Projects/ All India Network Projects operating in 45 State/Central Agricultural Universities (SAU/CAU) promotes research and innovations in seed sector. National Agricultural Research System under the aegis of ICAR has released 2681 high yielding/ stress tolerant varieties/ hybrids of field (2279) and horticultural crops (402) for different agro-climatic conditions during past nine years.

AICRP on Seed (Crops), ICAR coordinates quality seed production including breeder seed and development of region-specific technologies to address seed technological

issues of various stakeholders through network of 65 centres across 27 state/Union Territories in the country. Government through the schemes like Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) support the farmers by supplying quality seed through Front Line Demonstrations (FLD), Cluster Front Line Demonstrations (CFLD) and Mini-Kits. Seed production programs are also supported by providing infrastructure support by the Govt. Under NFSM, total 208 seed hubs for pulses, oilseeds and millets have been established in various ICAR Institutes, SAUs/CAUs and Krishi Vigyan Kendra for ensuring sufficient availability of quality seed to the farmers.

During last three years, 333707.5 quintals of breeder seed of more than 1400 varieties has been produced against the indent of 243951.4 quintals in field crops. As reported by the states, the availability of certified/quality seed in the country during 2020-21 was 483.66 lakh q as against requirement of 443.16 lakh q, whereas during 2021-22 and 2022-23, availability was 498.83 lakh q and 514.28 lakh q as against requirements of 465.36 lakh q and 464.15 lakh q, respectively.
