

**Abnormal pricing practice by Bt. seed companies**

1190. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints have been received on behalf of farming community against the abnormal pricing practice by Bt. Seed companies;
- (b) if so, whether any action has been initiated against the companies;
- (c) if so, details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Some complaints have been received from Andhra Pradesh about the exorbitant trait value being charged by Bt. Seed companies. Government of Andhra Pradesh has also initiated proceedings before monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission in this regard.

(b) to (d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has taken the view that it will be appropriate to wait for the outcome of judicial process as the matter is subjudice before the MRTP Commission.

**Work plan of India-US knowledge initiative**

1191 .SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed work plan of India-US Knowledge Initiative on AGRICULTURE, Agricultural Education, Research and Commercial Linkage;
- (b) whether the Knowledge Initiative focuses on introduction of GMO's and irradiated food in India at a time when the world is recognizing the productivity and ecological sustainability of small farmer; and
- (c) how much India will be benefited by adopting sustainable and hazardous technology through the US-India Agricultural Agreement?