

1	2
Chhattisgarh	1144
Gujarat	2990
Haryana	4390
Himachal Pradesh	1877
Jammu & Kashmir	1003
Jharkhand	1498
Karnataka	965
Madhya Pradesh	1757
Maharashtra	1730
Orissa	1466
Punjab	4507
Rajasthan	2910
Uttar Pradesh	3113
Uttarakhand	2340
West Bengal	2658
Others	3258
All-India	2938

*4th Advance Estimates released on 19.07.2011.

Development of high yielding seeds

1867. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are suffering huge financial losses due to bad quality of seeds;

(b) if so, the corrective action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Central Government has advised State Governments and ICAR to conduct detailed study with latest scientific techniques for development of various varieties of seeds which can yield more production in current atmosphere;

(d) whether Government has approached Department of Bio-Technology to develop best quality seeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. This Department has not received any complaint about huge financial losses due to bad quality of seeds supplied to the farmers. Moreover, adequate provisions are available under the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to empower the State Governments to check the sale of fake/inferior/spurious seeds.

(c) The ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities regularly conduct studies with latest scientific techniques for the development of new varieties of different crops. The new varieties are evaluated in different agro-climatic conditions over the years for abiotic and biotic stresses, nutritional value and yield potential before being recommended for cultivation to the farmers through gazette notification after the approval of the Central Seed Committee constituted under the Seeds Act, 1966.

(d) and (e) No specific request has been made by this Department to the Department of Bio-Technology to develop the best quality seeds. However, ICAR and State Agricultural Universities are engaged in biotech research for the development of new varieties in different crops.

**Rate of interest charged from farmers for
loan for agriculture purposes**

1868. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of interest charged from farmers who have taken loans from banks and co-operative credit institutions;

(b) whether Government proposes to reduce the rate of interest to four per cent or less for farmers who purchase tractors, seeds and other agricultural equipments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether existing information collection system collects and maintains data regarding amount of loans taken by farmers for agriculture purposes from individuals and other private institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?