

Difference of quality between traditional and modern seeds

†3104. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that by the end of 1970, 1,10,000 varieties of seeds of rice (Paddy) were available in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether presently only 6000 varieties of traditional seeds, out of these, are found at some places in the country;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) whether a huge difference is being found on the basis of nutrients between these traditional seeds and modern seeds being made available by multi-national companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (d) National Gene Bank at NBPGR holds more than 95,000 accessions of rice including land races/traditional varieties. Besides there are around 10,000 traditional varieties available with farmers, ICAR institutes, SAUs and NGOs. The Government of India has taken proactive action in collecting, characterising, evaluating and utilisation of valuable rice germplasm and also conserved in the National Gene Bank. These land races/traditional varieties are being characterized and evaluated for specific traits and being utilized to develop the improved varieties.

(e) There is not much difference in respect to nutrients between the traditional varieties and improved varieties including modern hybrids after polishing. However, there are certain traditional land races which are known for being rich in iron and zinc content and some of which have local consumer preference, such as 'Nivara', 'Radhuni Pagol', 'Kalanamak' etc.

Price rise of cotton seeds

†3105. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of various cotton seeds in the country have continuously been increasing for the last five years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the average price rise in each year, from 2008 to 2012;
- (c) whether the demand for seeds has also decreased due to the hike in prices;
- (d) if so, the annual decrease in their demand; and
- (e) the total number of companies involved in the business of seed production in the country in year 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the country more than 90% cotton area is under Bt. cotton and there has not been any continuous increase in the prices of Bt. cotton seeds as evident from the following table giving year wise prices of Bt. cotton seeds (BG-I and BG-II) in different States during the last 5 years:-

Year	BG-I		BG-II	
	MH, GUJ, MP, AP, KA, TN (Region-I)*	PUN, HAR, RAJ. (Region-II)**	MH, GUJ, MP, KA, TN (Region-I)*	PUN, HAR, RAJ. (Region-II)**
2008-09	650	750	750	925
2009-10	650	750	750	925
2010-11	650	750	750	925
2011-12	830	825	930	1000
2012-13	830	825	930	1000

* Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu.

** Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan.

Sources: Agriculture Department, Haryana; Agriculture Department, Gujarat & Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (MAHYCO).

(c) & (d) No, Sir. Question does not arise. In fact, the area under Bt. cotton cultivation increased from 93.36 lakh ha. in 2010-11 to 111.39 lakh ha. (estimated) in 2011-12 necessitating greater demand for Bt. cotton seeds.

(e) There are about 46 seed companies involved in the business of seed production and sale of Bt. cotton seed in 2011.

Cultivation of Bt. cotton

3106. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI ANIL DESAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bt. Cotton needs adequate and regular water supply;