

obtaining a certificate of recognition from the authority prescribed by concerned State/UT Government. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which assists the States/UTs in implementing the RTE Act, 2009, provides for the strengthening of school infrastructure in Government schools only.

Development of quality seeds

*454. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to increase development of high quality seeds of rice, wheat and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to provide these high quality seeds to farmers at low cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 157 varieties/hybrids of rice (68), wheat (28) and pulses (61) have been notified during the last three years based on the research work conducted by National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects of ICAR located in State Agricultural Universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC) of the Ministry of Agriculture provides assistance for production and distribution of quality seeds of rice, wheat and pulses under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), thus making quality seeds of these crops available to farmers at low cost.

(e) Question does not arise.