

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, it is an important thing that we keep expanding the capacity and, therefore, the hon. Member of Parliament has rightly pointed out that the demand has doubled. As we speak today, the capacity of sleepers in the country is adequate to meet the existing demand. The last shortlisting was done in 2007-08 and after that there has been a general surplus capacity. As we go forward, and expand further the Railway network, the more the demand comes in. Then, we will certainly like to bring in more plants. There are two things I would like to mention. We have changed the design now to plan for the future also even if there is a 30 ton axle load that is required in the future; currently we are using 20 and 24. We are planning now for 30 and New sleepers are designed to house rails needed to support even 30 metric ton axle load. Secondly, we are also examining whether there is a possibility of encouraging more plants to come in and increase the competition so that the Railways can get the benefit of both.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question. No. 246. Shri Oscar Fernandes. Hon. Member is not here. For supplementary questions, there is nobody. Now, we will take up Question. No. 247. Shri Rajmani Patel.

*246. [*The Questioner was absent.*]

Certification for agro products

*246. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism for certification of agro products made by different companies in the country;
- (b) if so, the detailed mechanism thereof, UT/State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether any nodal officer has been appointed for the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The term 'agro products' includes a wide range of products used for different purpose. Government of India has put in certification mechanism as and where required. The detailed certification procedures of agro products such as

fertilizers, organic products, plants, seeds, insecticide and primary agriculture produce are given in Annexure-I (*See below*).

(c) In view of above (a) and (b), question doesn't arise.

(d) For plant Certification: Plant Protection Advisor, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad is the nodal officer. 198 officers of Central Government, State Government/Union Territories and ICAR institutes have been notified as Phytosanitary Certificate issuing authorities as under:—

(i) Officers of Central Government: 68

(ii) Officers from State Government/Union Territories and ICAR institutes: 130

For certification of primary agriculture produce: Though there are no nodal officers appointed, however, authorized officers of Directorate of Marketing and Inspection at 11 Regional and 27 Sub Offices, are implementing AGMARK Certification.

For BIS certification: The BIS Conformity Assessment Scheme for grant and operation of licences for the use of BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark) is implemented through its branch offices in the country.

For insecticide certification: The Central Government and State Governments have notified 182 and 10354 Insecticide Inspectors respectively to check sale of misbranded pesticides. Insecticide samples are drawn on regular basis and analyzed in 69 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories, details are given in Annexure-II (*See below*). Action is initiated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against those samples which are found misbranded.

Annexure-I

Detailed certification procedures of agro products

A. Agro-Products-issues relating to Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

1. Quality Control of fertilizers

For inclusion of any product in Fertilizer Control Order, it is required to submit an application along with report of agronomic trials of one season. The same is placed before the Central Fertiliser Committee for their recommendation on inclusion of the same under FCO, 1985. After appraisal of the competent authority to the verification of CFC, specifications of fertilizers are notified under FCO. No

person shall manufacture, sell any product as fertilizer unless it is specified under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.

2. Certification Mechanism for Organic Products

There are two ways of Accreditation and Certifying organic farming, one is Participatory Guarantees System (PGS-India) which is for domestic trade and second one is Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) which is third party verification and certification of organic production processes for export under Ministry of Commerce.

Participatory Guarantee System

Participatory Guarantee System, a quality assurance initiative that is locally relevant with active participation of stakeholders including producers/farmers, traders and consumers in certification system. This group certification system is supported by Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme. It in a way supports domestic demand for organic produce and trains the farmers in document management and adherence to other requirements of certification process and prepares the farmers to opt for third party certification, if he wishes to go for export.

Third Party Certification

National Programme of Organic Produce notified in 2001 under FTDR Act, is primarily for regulation and certification of organic commodities meant for export. The present system of third party accreditation and certification mechanism for exports is well recognized. For international trade, NPOP has equivalence with Europe and USA. All the importing countries in South-East Asia, Europe and USA are accepting the NPOP certified products.

Any organic food either manufactured, packed, sold, offered for sale, marketed or otherwise distributed in the country is regulated as per the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (Organic Food) Regulations, 2017 which were notified on 29.12.2017 and enforced from 01.07.2018. These regulations require Organic Food to comply with the provisions of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) or Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). However, to support small original organic producer or producer organisation, those with annual turnover not exceeding 12 lakhs per annum have been exempted from certification through NPOP and PGS.

3. Phytosanitary Certificate for Plant

Phytosanitary certificate is being issued for export consignment of plant and plant products declaring that consignment is free from quarantine pests as per the requirement

of importing countries. Phytosanitary Certificate is being issued online through Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS) website <http://plantquarantineindia.nic.in>.

4. Certification of Insecticide

The Central Government has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transportation, distribution and use of insecticides. The Central Government is responsible for registration of insecticides whereas, the State Governments are responsible for enforcement of the provisions relating to manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. The Central Government under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering the data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. Furthermore, as per the Insecticides Act 1968, the monitoring of pesticides quality is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

5. Primary Agricultural Produce

AGMARK is a certification mark under AP(GM) Act, 1937 for primary agricultural produce, assuring that they conform to a grade standard notified by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) an attached office of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing Agmark Certification through its 11 Regional Offices, 27 Sub Offices, 11 Regional Agmark Laboratories (RALs) and 1 Central Agmark Laboratories. Additionally, there are 98 State Agmark grading laboratories, 68 private commercial laboratories for domestic trade and 25 private commercial laboratories for exports. Till date, grade standards for 224 agricultural commodities have been notified under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

The companies which meet the compliance to the requirements of General and Specific Grading and Marking Rules under AP (GM) Act are issued Certificate of Authorization (CA) for manufacturing/packaging of agro products.

6. Certification of Seed

Seed certification has been recognized as an official method of seed quality control which provides high quality seeds and planting material of notified/kind and varieties to Indian farmers and presently 25 State Seed Certification Agencies (Annexure A) are working across the Country. Seed certification is also responsible to achieve quality seed of prescribed Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards.

The system of labelling the seed and certification has legal sanctity under Section 6 (a) and clause 17 (a) of Seed Rules of Seeds Act, 1966, which provides that seed producers/traders have the option either to produce and sell labelled seed or certified seed respectively.

In other words, seed certification has been made voluntary and is not compulsory. The Act further provides that only a variety notified under Section 5 of seeds Act can be certified and the authority of notification of kind/variety vests with the Central Government. Any variety released and notified through official Gazette under Section 5 of the Seeds Act by Central Sub-Committee on Crop standards Notification and Release of Varieties for Agricultural crops is eligible for certification.

B. BIS Standards relating of Agro-products.

7. In addition to the above, Under the provisions of BIS Act, 2016, BIS has granted licences for use of the BIS Standard Mark (ISI Mark) to manufacturing units for various agro products such as:

- (i) IS 899:1971 Tapioca Sago Sabudana
- (ii) IS 1155:1968 Wheat Atta
- (iii) IS 1319:1983 Edible Tapioca Starch
- (iv) IS 2404:1993 Malt Extract
- (v) IS 3309:1992 Soluble Coffee Chicory Powder
- (vi) IS 4684:1975 Edible Groundnut Flour
- (vii) IS 10065:1981 Roasted Groundnut (Peanut) Kernels
- (viii) IS 14613:1998, Chana Sattu

The mechanism of BIS Certification Scheme is as per the provisions of BIS Act, 2016, BIS Rules, 2018 and BIS Conformity Assessment Regulations, 2018, which is applicable to all manufacturers across all States/UTs.

Annexure A*List of Seed Certification Agencies*

Sl. No.	Addresses	Sl. No.	Addresses
1	2	3	4
1.	Managing Director Gujarat State Seed Certification Agency Beej Pramanan Bhawan, Vibagh-5, Satellite Road, Near Shyamal Raw House, Opp. Gurukul Raw House Ahemdabad-380015 Ph: 079-26794116/26734110 Mob: 09978405999 Email: gssca_ahd@rediffmail.com	6.	Director Punjab State Seed Cert. Agency Phase-IV, Mohali-160 059. Ph:0172-2970032/2970033 Mob: 9915576955 Email: directiopssca@gmail.com
2.	Director Maharashtra State Seed Certification Agency. Neel Kanth Sekhari Soot Girni, Amaravati Road, Akola-444005 Ph: 0724-2258712/2258713 Mob: 9822331270 Email: msscakola@dataone.in	7.	Director Uttarakhand State Seed Cert. Agency, 3rd Floor, Krishak Bhawan, Mussoorie by Pass Ring Road, Nehrugram, DEHRADUN-248006 Ph: 0135-2760734
3.	Director Karnataka State Seed Cert. Agency. KAIC Premises Opp. Baptist Hospital, Hebbel, Bangalore-560024 Ph: 080-23418302 Mob: 9448990354 Email: dscbng@gmail.com	8.	Director UP State Seed Certification Agency Horticulture Complex, Kariyappa Marg, Alam Bagh, Lucknow-226005 Ph: 0522-2451256 Mob: 9235629366 Email: upseedcert@yahoo.com
4.	Managing Director MP State Seeds Cert. Agency, B-2, Block-I, 3rd and 4th Floor, Office Complex, Gautam Nagar Bhopal-462023 Ph: 0755-2600860 Mob: 9617879099 Email: mpsscaho@gmail.com	9.	Director Haryana State Seed Cert. Agency Bay No.-11-12, Sector-14, Panchkula-134109 (Haryana) Ph: 0172-2567642 Mob: 9416272554 Email: hsscakpl@gmail.com
5.	Director, Orissa State Seed Cert. Agency Plot No. 326 Baramunda, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar-751003 Ph: 0647-2561783 Mob: 9437241054 Email: directorosscc@rediffmail.com	10.	Director Bihar State Seed Cert. Agency Mithapur Farm, GPO, Patna-800001 Ph: 0612-6531896 Mob: 9431818707/9102699423 Email: sca.patna@rediffmail.com

1	2	3	4
11.	Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Seed Certification Agency, Indra Gandhi Viswa Vidyalaya, Raipur-492 012. Ph: 0771-6501752 Mob: 9424100205 Email: <i>mdcsa.cg@gmail.com</i>	17.	Director Rajasthan State Seed and organic Production Cert. Agency, G.B. Pant Krishi Bhawan Bhagwan Das Road Jaipur-5. Ph: 0141-2227108 Mob: 9414007400 Email: <i>dir_rssopca@rediffmail.com</i>
12.	Director H.P. State Seeds Cert. Agency, Boiluganj, Nalagarh House Shimla-171005 Ph: 0177-2830643 Mob: 9816132705 Email: <i>hpsopca@gmail.com</i>	18.	Divisional Seed Cert. Officer, TalabTillo, Jammu Division, Department of Agriculture, Jammu-180002
13.	The Director, Office of the Project Officer, IADP, Government Of NCT, Delhi, 11th Floor, MSO Building, IP Estate, New Delhi-110002 and Sh. A.P. Saini, Jt. Director, (Agriculture), Off. Ph. No. 23319290 Mob. No. 9654153129, Email: <i>jdagridelhi@gmail.com</i>	19.	Divisional Seed Cert. Officer, Kashmir Division, Department of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagart-190001. Off. Ph. No. 0194-2310675 Mob. No. 9419008391, Email: <i>diragrikmr@gmail.com</i>
14.	Director of Seed Certification, Door No 1424, Govt. College of Technology, Post Thadagam Road, Coimbatore-641013, Tamil Nadu. Ph: 0422-2432984 Email: <i>dscdbe@rediffmail.com</i>	20.	Director W.B. State Seeds Cert. Agency, 238, Netaji Subhash Chander Road, Kolkata-700040. Ph: 033-24711640 Mob: 9434079468
15.	Director Assam State Seed Certification Agency, Ram Kirshana Mission Road. Ulubari, Guwahati-781007. Ph: 0361-2478805 Mob: 9706616496 Email: <i>dirassca@yahoo.com</i>	21.	Director Jharkhand State Seed Certification Agency, Krishi Bhawan, Campus, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
16.	Director AP State Seed Cert. Agency, 5-10-193, HACA Bhawan opp. Public Garden, Hyderabad-500004 Ph: 040-23237016 Mob: 9848153140 Email: <i>asspca@yahoo.co.in</i>	22.	Director, Telangana State Seed Certification Agency, House No. 5-1 193, 1st Floor, HACA Complex, Opp. Public Garden, Hyderabad-500029. Ph: 040-23237016 Mob: 9849402488 Email: <i>tsscadir@gmail.com</i>

1	2	3	4
23	Additional Director of Agriculture, (Crop/Production), Deptt. of Seed Certification, Vikas Bhawan, Thiruvananthapuram-667041. Ph: 0471-2304687 Mob: 09496002980	25.	Director, Puducherry Seed Certification Agency, Puducherry Administration, Puducherry-605 001. Off. Ph. No. 0413-2229699
24.	Director of Agriculture, Incharge Seed Certification, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok-737102. Off. Ph. No. 03592-232942 Mob. No. 09832017868 Email: director_agri@yahoo.co.in		

Annexure-II*Details of SPTLs*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of Laboratories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Gujarat	2
7.	Haryana	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10.	Jharkhand	1
11.	Karnataka	6
12.	Kerala	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1
14.	Maharashtra	4
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Odisha	1
18.	Puducherry	1
19.	Punjab	3

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of Laboratories
20.	Rajasthan	6
21.	Tamil Nadu	15
22.	Telangana	2
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttara Khand	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4
26.	West Bengal	1
	TOTAL	69

Details of RPTLs

1.	Kanpur
2.	Chandigarh

Mechanism to control prices of patented medicines

*247. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved any mechanism to control prices of exorbitantly-priced patented medicines to make them more affordable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difference between the reference pricing model and the negotiated pricing model; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government notified the Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013 on 15.05.2013 to control and regulate the prices of medicines in the country. The prices of drugs are fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) as per provisions of DPCO, 2013. DPCO, 2013 does not distinguish between Patented and Non-Patented drugs for fixing the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines.

(c) These are not defined terminology under Drugs and Cosmetics Act or under DPCO.