

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2577
ANSWERED ON- 25/03/2022

AVAILABILITY OF HIGH YIELD IMPROVISED SEEDS

2577. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a lot needs to be done by Government towards making available genuine high yield improvised seeds developed by Agricultural Research Institution, of grains, vegetables, oilseeds, fruits, flowers, etc. to the farmers through authorized centres;
- (b) if so, the concrete plans Government has for easy availability of seeds at least at district level, if not, taluka or block levels in view of the fact that the District Agriculture and Horticulture Departments make available outdated seeds to the farmers; and
- (c) the arrangements Government has made to apprise the farmers about the quality seeds and their hassle-free availability at reasonable cost?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): There is a strong network for making the seeds available to the farmers at district/ taluka levels through 51 State and Central Agricultural and Horticultural Universities and 65 crop based ICAR Institutes and their regional stations, 726 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, network of 3000 dealers of National Seed Corporation Ltd., 17 State Seed Corporations, 6 Public Sector Undertakings (IFFDC, KRIBHCO, NAAFED, NFL, HIL, NDDB), around 550 private seed companies, FPOs and NGOs. Some of the Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed online seed portals for making seeds available to farmers. Government has also started seed hubs for quality seed production of pulses, oilseeds and millets.

For apprising the farmers about quality seeds and their easy availability at reasonable cost, the various centrally sponsored schemes of Government like Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), Sub-Mission of Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP), Seed Hubs (Pulses, Oilseeds, Millets) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) are implemented by State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendra's, ICAR Institutes and Central/State Agricultural Universities. These programmes focus on seed production and distribution, training programmes on varieties and seeds, on-farm demonstrations, field days and Kisan Melas. Kisan Channel of Doordarshan is also utilized to create awareness among farmers about new seed varieties and their availability. Technology specific Apps have been developed which are also playing significant role in disseminating the varietal technologies. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has launched a weekly "Pusa Samachar" in six languages through youtube channel to disseminate agricultural technologies including seeds.
