

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1137
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2022

SETTING UP OF MORE SEED TESTING LABORATORIES

1137. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has only six laboratories accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), if so, the steps taken by Government to revamp and improve India's Seed Testing Laboratories (STLs) so as to ensure ISTA accreditation, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to develop more STLs based on requirements set out by ISTA, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the allocation of funds by Government for improving and maintaining facilities in STLs for the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No Sir, There are eight laboratories accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) out of that two are in public sector. In order to promote ISTA accreditation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare provides the grants-in-aid to the States and other implementing agencies @ ₹ 5.00 lakh for membership fee and ₹ 10.00 lakh for Technical Audit per laboratory. Besides, the grants-in-aid (one time) is also available/provided @ ₹ 60.00 lakh for purchase of equipments and ₹ 20.00 lakh for renovation of a notified Seed Testing Laboratory (STL) under Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP).

In addition, financial assistance is available/ provided to the States/ implementing agencies for seed infrastructure facilities including Seed Testing Laboratories under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

(c): The financial assistance is provided for strengthening of notified STLs of the States, State Seeds Corporations (SSCs), State Seeds Certification Agencies (SSCAs), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes etc. based on demand /proposals received as per operational guidelines of SMSP. The funds released for the strengthening of STLs during last 3 years under SMSP is as under:

S. No	Year	Amount released for STLs (₹ in lakh)
1.	2019-20	399.52
2.	2020-21	143.00
3.	2021-22	514.08
