

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1396
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2025

SUBSTANDARD SEEDS AND PESTICIDES

1396. DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of regulatory steps being taken by the Government to prevent losses to farmers due to substandard or inferior quality seeds and pesticides;
- (b) the legal action taken so far against the manufacturing, marketing or sale of substandard seeds or pesticides and whether any amendment or new policy is proposed to make these regulations more robust and effective;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any special programme in collaboration with the State Governments for upgrading or expanding the laboratories for testing qualities of seeds and pesticides; and
- (d) if so, the latest data in this regard and details of steps taken on the said issue?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a): In order to ensure availability of quality seeds and pesticides for preventing losses to the farmers, the various provisions are available in the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds Rules, 1968, the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, the Insecticide Act, 1968, and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 etc. The State Governments/UTs appoints the Quality Control Inspectors for ensuring quality of seeds and pesticides in their states. These Inspectors are empowered to draw the samples from manufacturers/retailers etc, send to laboratory for testing quality. In case any sample of seeds and pesticides are found to be sub-standard, actions are taken as per the relevant provisions of Acts and Rules with respect to seeds, and pesticides (viz. cancelation of dealer license, seize the stock, issue of warning, issue 'Stop Sale' Order and file the case in the Court etc.).

Government of India also issue advisories to all the States/UTs, to ensure implementation of existing legal framework strictly to step up the vigil on the manufacturer premises and storage, sale point of dealers/retailers etc. to check the sale of spurious seeds, and pesticides.

Government of India has launched Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) portal for ensuring traceability and complete seed chain from Nucleus seeds to Certified Seeds for effective monitoring and transparency in whole seed production and distribution system.

To strengthen the regulatory system a series of State Seed Certification Agencies (SSCAs) and Seed Testing Laboratories (STLs) have been set up. There are 25 SSCAs for certification of seeds and 178 notified STLs for testing of seeds at present working in the country. Similarly, for testing of pesticides 70 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and 2 Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) at Kanpur and Chandigarh have been established in the country.

(b): During the year 2024-25 and current year total 3,94,150 seed samples drawn and 16,146 samples found sub-standard, 9,598 'Stop Sale' Order issued, 181 cases of forfeiture, 1,968 cases filled in the Court, 249 cases decided by Court of Law and 1,675 no. of cases sub-judice.

Similarly, a total 85,718 pesticides samples have been analysed and 2,362 samples found misbranded. 822 prosecution cases were filed against firms involved in the manufacture, sale, or illegal import of substandard or low-quality pesticides, and 145 cases resulted in conviction by the Hon'ble Court during the year 2024-25.

A draft Seeds Bill, 2025 has been placed for public/stakeholders' consultation for bringing a new Seeds Act to make the provisions more robust and effective.

(c) & (d): The details of steps being taken by the Government of India and States/UTs. for upgrading the quality testing laboratories are as under:

- a) Government of India provides the financial assistance to the States/UTs. and implementing agencies for Strengthening of Quality Control Arrangement viz. for setting up of new testing laboratory, upgrading existing testing laboratory, Seed Health laboratory, DNA Finger Printing laboratory etc. under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) and Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc.
- b) Government of India also provides the financial assistance for conducting National trainings /Workshops and capacity-building programmes for the various stakeholders.
- c) Encouraging the States/UTs. and implementing agencies etc. for obtaining National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation of testing laboratories and also International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) accreditation for STLs etc. to improve the quality of testing etc.
