

AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY SEEDS AND FARMERS' SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH BBSSL

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Ministry of Cooperation has set up Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 to act as an apex organization for production, procurement, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, storage, marketing, distribution and strategic research & development of quality seeds with a clear vision to build a strong, farmer-centric seed system through a cooperative-led structure.

Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) has so far introduced seeds of 18 crops and 124 varieties in the market under the 'Bharat Beej' brand for distribution across the country. Further, BBSSL has undertaken initiatives for developing production and quality-testing requirements for vegetable seeds in accordance with the prescribed seed quality and regulatory standards.

During the financial year 2025–26, BBSSL produced 75,535 metric tonnes of seeds through its associated seed-producing farmers under the seed production programme for the 'Bharat Beej' brand. The programme facilitates farmers' participation in organised seed production and provides technical support for the production of seeds in accordance with the prescribed quality and certification standards.

For the conservation of traditional indigenous varieties, BBSSL has initiated a programme in Uttarakhand focusing on the identification, conservation, multiplication and documentation of such varieties. BBSSL's activities include the expansion of domestic seed production, conservation of indigenous genetic resources, and distribution of quality seeds through the cooperative network, thereby contributing to the objective of reducing the country's dependence on imported seeds and strengthening self-reliance in the seed sector.

This information was given by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

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