

(a) the details of steps taken or propose to take by the Government to meet the demand and supply gap of hybrid, high yield varieties, certified/quality seeds of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits;

(b) the details of Central Government agencies producing and importing seed including Central Agriculture Universities, Research and sponsored institutes who are marketing/distributing high yielding varieties of various seeds;

(c) the norms laid down by the State Farms Corporation of India for distribution/marketing of high yield varieties of certified/quality seed; and

(d) the norms laid down by the Government for import of high yielding varieties of seeds, referred above, under Open General Licence and names of the countries from where such import are allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Production of certified/quality seeds is done both in the public and private sectors. In the public sector, production and distribution of seeds to the farmers including hybrid, high yielding varieties, certified/quality seeds of cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables and fruits is under taken by the State Government through its own organisations like Agriculture farms of Department of Agriculture, State Seeds Corporations, Cooperative Institutions, etc. At the national level, the National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India are involved in production and distribution of seeds to supplement the efforts of the State in meeting the demand for seeds. To meet the shortfall in requirements of States for seeds, the Central Government organises Zonal Seeds Review Meetings to review the seed requirement/availability position with State Governments prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi. Efforts are made to meet the demands of States with short supply through States/seed producing agencies of surplus areas.

(b) The agencies which have been allowed to import seeds include :

(i) Department of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Governments, State Agriculture Universities and ICAR.

(ii) Seed Producing companies/firms, after registration with the National Seeds Corporation.

(iii) National Seeds Corporation.

(iv) State Seeds Corporations.

(v) Growers of vegetables and flowers registered with the Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of the State Government.

(c) SFCI supplies seeds mainly through State Seeds Corporations, State Department of Agriculture and to certain extent through dealers appointed by SFCI. Orders are being received from the various State Seeds Corporations and Department of Agriculture and supply is made to the respective organisations depending upon the availability of the varieties and quantity. The sale is made either at ex-farm or F.O.R. destination. SFCI also undertakes sale through retail counters for which a separate sale rate is fixed in addition to dealer sale rate which is adopted for dealers and the State Departments. Giving priority to meet the demand of the State Department of Agriculture and State Seeds Corporations, the dealers are also supplied with the seeds for further distribution through them to the farmers.

(d) Import of vegetable seeds only is allowed from countries where available under Open General Licence subject to the provisions of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds Order, 1989.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

2836. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for new telephone connections at present in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Kakinada telephone exchange, district-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) The number of applications pending for new telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh, as on 30.11.98, was 201127. District-wise details are given in the statement. The waiting list for Kakinada exchange was 968 on 30.11.98.

(b) It is proposed to augment the capacity of existing telephone exchanges in addition to opening of new exchanges and out of the waiting list of 201127 as on 30.11.98, 1.05 lakh is likely to be cleared during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively during the next financial year.

Statement

Statement to be Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha Vide Part(A) of Unstarred Question No. 2836 for 16.12.1998

Annexure

Revenue District Wise WRsL as on 30.11.1998

Sl. No.	Name of the District	WL as on 30.11.98
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	3075
2.	Ananthapur	5737
3.	Chittoor	12657
4.	Guddapah	5185
5.	East Godavari*	16982
	*Excluding Yanam(UT)	
6.	Guntur	18878
7.	Hyderabad	21835
8.	Karimnagar	13606
9.	Khammam	7956
10.	Krishna	13917
11.	Kurnool	2433
12.	Mahaboobnagar	3187
13.	Medak	3737
14.	Nalgonda	8237
15.	Nellore	7839
16.	Nizamabad	3785

1	2	3
17.	Prakasham	7341
18.	Rangareddy	6386
19.	Srikakulam	2292
20.	Visakhapatnam	10104
21.	Vizianagaram	1864
22.	Warangal	5589
23.	West Godawari	18178
	Total	200800
	Yanam(UT)	327
	Total A.P. Circle	201127

[Translation]

Small and Marginal Farmers

2837. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of small and marginal farmers are increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the average number of small and marginal farmers in the country during the First and Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the criterion adopted by the Government to identify these farmers;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme to make the agriculture a profitable industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?