

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
SUPPLY OF POISONOUS COTTON SEEDS
DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI;PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have imported poisonous cotton seeds and supplied to farmers in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh causing havoc with the lives of farmers;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the company who supplied poisonous/spurious seeds; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government propose to safeguard the interest of cotton farmers who used such poisonous seeds?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.8 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20 NOVEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India have neither imported poisonous cotton seeds nor supplied such seed to farmers in the country. No permits have been issued for import of cotton seed in the last three years.

(c)&(d): Seeds Act, 1966, Seed Rules, 1968 & Seed (Control) Order, 1983 are the legal instruments to ensure the availability of quality seeds to the farmers. The responsibility for implementation of these legal instruments lies with the State Governments. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is alert to the threat of spurious seeds. They have constituted a Special Committee and deputed officers from Department of Agriculture well before the commencement of the season to keep vigil on supplies of seeds and to carry out inspection of dealers premises. During the inspection of the Special Team, 71 cases were booked, 5759 Qtls. of seeds worth Rs.1.72 crore were seized/detained.

During the year 1999-2000, Government of Andhra Pradesh has notified 907 Seed Inspectors. 10,629 samples and 2302 samples have been drawn under Seeds Act and Seed (Control) Order respectively by these Inspectors for the purpose of implementing these legal instruments in the State.