

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2881
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
SCARCITY OF HIGH QUALITY SEEDS
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently reported about the scarcity of high quality seeds in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish a seed bank to store seeds of high quality; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a): No, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has not reported the scarcity of high quality seeds in the country. However, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the States Governments by organizing Zonal Seed Review Meetings and also National Conferences on Agriculture prior to Kharif and Rabi Season every year. The overall availability of certified seeds including quality seeds against the requirement of all field crops for the last three years is as under:

(Qty. in lakh Qtls.)

Year Requirement Availability

2003-04	99.32	124.38
2004-05	110.83	132.27
2005-06	107.08	140.51

(b)&(c): The scheme for Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank was launched with the basic objective of meeting the requirement of seeds during natural calamities like flood and droughts and also development of necessary infrastructure for storage of seed. The Scheme is being implemented through National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and State Seed Corporations of several States. A target of 160.00 lakh quintals of seeds has been kept for Seed Bank during the current year. Thus the storage of crop varieties for normal conditions is not envisaged in this Scheme.