

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
FOOD SECURITY
Singh Shri Lakshman

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether erosion and narrowing of the base of India's plant and animal genetic resources in the last few decades has affected the food security in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of areas and breeds affected as a result thereof, State-wise and
- (c) the steps being taken to check this dangerous trend?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir. The high yielding crop varieties have replaced traditional varieties from major areas of commercial cultivation leading to increased food production and food security. As regards the livestock sector, some of the defined breeds have reduced in their respective breeding tracts. In fisheries, there has been no visible erosion of fish bio-diversity, in spite of significant increase in fish production through aquaculture in the recent years.

(b)&(c): In order to conserve genetic resources, the Government of India has established four bureaus as under:-

(i) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) at New Delhi for crops, fruits and vegetables.

(ii) National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) at Karnal for the livestock.

(iii) National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) at Lucknow for marine and inland fisheries.

(iv) National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM) at Mau Nath Bhanjan.

The traditional crop varieties and land races are being collected from various parts of the country and are being conserved in the National Genebank, at NBPGR. The NBAGR has already initiated the programme on conservation (in-situ & ex-situ) and is creating awareness for conservation and improvement of indigenous breeds in different states of the country. Already, nine Brain Storming Sessions have been conducted in UP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Nagaland, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand states in this context. To safeguard the indigenous breeds of livestock, NBAGR has created Semen, DNA and Somatic Cell Banks in the Bureau. Similarly, NBFGR has been carrying out fish genetic conservation, with milt cryopreservation of important fish species.