

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1042
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR NEW PLANT VARIETIES
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has started any programme for research in new plant varieties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any authority has been set up by the Government to protect the interests and rights of farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Centers of the All India Coordinated Research Projects located at State Agricultural Universities have ongoing research programmes to develop new plant varieties suitable for different agro-climatic conditions of the country.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001, the Government of India has established Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority. The main functions are:-

1. To recognise and protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contribution made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties.
2. For accelerated agricultural development in the country, it is necessary to protect plant breeders' rights to stimulate investment for research and development, both in the public and private sector, for the development of new plant varieties.
3. To facilitate the growth of the seed industry in the country which will ensure the availability of high quality seeds and planting material to the farmers.