

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3548
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF QUALITY SEEDS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the scheme for the development and strengthening of infrastructural facilities for the production and distribution of quality seeds;
- (b) the funds allocated for the scheme during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the allocated amount has been utilized;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether an assessment has been made regarding the outcome thereof; and
- (f) if so, the said outcome is useful and beneficial?

Answer

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

(a): The restructured scheme for the development and strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds has 3 old components viz. Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank, Quality Control Arrangement on Seed, and Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and hill areas of West Bengal and 7 new components viz. Seed Village Scheme, Assistance for Creation of Infrastructure Facilities, Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector, Assistance for Seed Export, Use of Biotechnology in Crop Production, Promotion of Use of Hybrid Seed of Rice and Human Resource Development.

(b) & (c): Funds allocated/released and utilized during last 3 years are as under:-

Amount Rs. in Lakh
Year Allocation Utilization

2003-04	1005.97	1005.97
2004-05	1246.41	1246.41
2005-06	5986.80	Rs.1398.378 lakh utilized.

The balance amount is under utilization.

(d) to (f): The outcome of this scheme has been as follows: Seed Banks have maintained foundation and certified seeds to meet the requirement of seeds during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions. Financial Assistance has also been provided for construction of seed storage godowns and for creation of system for fast flow of information on availability of seeds with National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporations to enable seed users to purchase/source the required seed for areas affected by natural calamities.

Seed Quality Control Organizations like State Seed Certification Agencies and State Seed Testing Laboratories have been strengthened & personnel trained to regulate the quality of seed distributed to farmers.

The additional cost of transportation of seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Hill areas of West Bengal has been reimbursed so that the farmers of these regions also get access to reasonably priced certified seeds.

Foundation seeds of wheat, paddy, red gram, Bengal gram, green gram, black gram, groundnut, castor, sesamum etc., have been distributed to farmers in various states who have been trained in seed production and seed technology.

Assistance has also been given for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector.

These interventions are expected to result in improved availability of quality seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices.