

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:845
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
SELLING OF SPURIOUS SEEDS .
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the selling of spurious seeds by traders in the country has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise and crop-wise; and
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of farmers and action taken against such traders? ANSWER

Answer

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

(a) to (c): There have been reports of supply of spurious Bt. cotton seeds in some States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The Central Government as well as State Governments are taking all necessary measure to check sale of spurious Bt. cotton seeds. The Government of India has advised to all the Bt. cotton growing States to take necessary punitive action against the producers and vendors of spurious Bt. cotton seeds under the provisions of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Bt. cotton growing States have also been asked to create awareness among the farmers through awareness campaign about the potential risk associated with Bt. cotton seeds. Adequate financial assistance has been extended to all Bt. cotton growing States to purchase necessary Bt. gene detection kit. Labelling standard for Bt. cotton has been prescribed and gazettee notification to this effect has been issued under relevant provision of the Seeds Act, 1966. Besides, the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as Referral Lab for detecting the presence of Bt. gene.

Department of Seed Certification, Tamil Nadu has established a laboratory in the Directorate of Seed Certification, Coimbatore to test cotton seeds to analyze whether it contains illegal Bt. gene. The Government of Punjab has also informed that they have issued strict instructions to all the field functionaries to check and stop the sale of spurious seeds. They have also undertaken massive campaign for educating farmers on the issue.

The Government of Gujarat has also constituted special Flying Squad to prevent spreading of illegal Bt. cotton seeds. Press notes have been published in the newspapers by Government of Gujarat to create awareness among farmers regarding use of unauthorized Bt. cotton seeds. The State Government had constituted special squad which raided in the premises of seed producers, processing plants and packing units and ceased 272.53 quintals of spurious seeds of Bt. cotton and 49 persons were arrested under Section IPC-420. The stop sale notice were issued for detection of stocks of Bt. cotton hybrids NCS-145 in the State because of complaints about poor germination.

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has constituted a Task Force to conduct surprise visits to all the seed dealers as well as premises of seed producers/agencies for drawing the seed samples for quality analysis of Bt. cotton seeds. The Department has also seized 1100 packets of fake Bt. cotton seeds and spurious Bt. cotton seeds suppliers have been arrested and a case filed against them.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there is no report about spurious Bt. cotton seed in the State. The seed inspectors are equipped with Bt. detection kit and State has already taken steps to prevent illegal sale of spurious Bt. cotton.