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Title: Need to segregate the prices of BT cotton and Non-BT cotton refuge seeds sold in a single packet in a just and rationale manner.

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (RAVER): Farmers purchase BT cotton seed from the market. The packet of the 450 gms BT Cotton contains 72 to 120 gms refuge seed as approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). The MRP of the packet of BT Cotton is Rs. 930/- This is inclusive of cost of non-BT refuge seed. Farmer presumes the non BT seed supplied in the packet of BT Cotton packet is free. Seed companies are supplying either 120 gms of non-BT cotton or 72 gms of Red gram as refuge seed in the packet of BT Cotton.

I am convinced for adding of the refuge seed in the packet of BT Cotton as it is scientific, necessary hence directed and approved by GEAC. But it is not justifiable to charge heavy rate to farmers for non BT refuge seed under this roof. The seed companies are charging heavy rate for the non BT Cotton deliberately not indicating the cost of this non BT Cotton on the packet.

Out of Rs. 930/-, the cost of refuge seed is Rs. 120/- per packet. Seed companies are selling Red gram seed @ Rs. 200/- kg. Looking to this cost of 72 gms Red Gram comes to Rs. 14.40 to 20/-, and in spite of this factual situation the seed companies are charging Rs. 120/- for 72 gms of Red Gram while supplying this as refuge seed with the BT Cotton.

I request to Government to segregate the prices of BT and Non BT refuge seeds to minimize burden of unjustifiable prices of Seeds on Farmer.