

Inviting Comments on the draft Seeds Bill, 2025

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, MoA&FW, Government of India has prepared a fresh draft Seeds Bill, 2025 in alignment with current requirements. It is intended to replace the present Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.

The legislation is expected to regulate the quality of seeds and planting materials and ensure the availability of quality seeds for farmers; curb the sale of spurious and poor quality seeds; liberalize imports of seeds and planting materials besides protecting the rights of the farmers. On the enforcement side, the proposed Seeds Bill aims to decriminalize petty offences, thereby promoting Ease of Doing Business and reducing the compliance burden, while simultaneously ensuring an effective mechanism to penalize serious offences.

As part of the pre-legislative consultation process, the draft Seeds Bill, 2025 and the prescribed format are available on the Ministry's website: <https://agriwelfare.gov.in>.

The Comments and suggestions on draft bill and its provision are invited from all stakeholders and the general public. The comments/suggestions may be sent by email to jsseeds-agri@gov.in in MS word or PDF format as early as possible but latest by 11.12.2025.

Part-A: Details of person or organization (as the case may be) for making comments/ suggestion

Name & Designation of the person	
Contact Details (Address, E-mail, Mobile)	
Name of organization/Agency (if any associated)	
Contact Details (Address, E-mail, Mobile)	

Part-B Comments/ Suggestions

S. No.	Section	Issue	Comments /Suggestions

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	THE SEEDS BILL, 2025	
	A BILL	
	<i>to provide for regulating the quality of seeds for sale and import, to facilitate production and supply of quality seeds and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.</i>	
	BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-Sixth year of the Republic of India as follows: —	
	CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY	
Short title, application and commencement.	1. (1) This Act may be called the Seeds Act,- 2025.	
	(2) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, it shall apply to—	
	(a) every dealer;	
	(b) every distributor; and	
	(c) every producer of seed, other than farmer:	
	Provided that nothing contained in this Act shall restrict the right of the farmer to grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share or sell his farm seeds of kind or variety registered under this Act, except when he sells such seed or planting material under a brand name.	
	(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint:	
	Provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.	
Definitions.	2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—	
	(a) “agriculture” includes horticulture;	
	(b) “appellate authority” means the Appellate Authority appointed under section 28;	
	(c) “brand name” means a brand which is identifiable by a distinct mark, design or name;	
	(d) “Central Seed Testing Laboratory” means the Laboratory established or declared as such under sub-section (1) of section 29;	

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	(e) "Certification Agency" means an Agency established under section 23 or accredited under section 24 or recognised under section 27;	
	(f) "Centralized Seed Traceability Portal" means the portal of Central Government for traceability and tracking of seed production and distribution;	
	(g) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Committee;	
	(h) "Committee" means the Central Seed Committee constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3;	
	(i) "container" means a box, bottle, casket, tin, barrel, case, receptacle, sack, bag, wrapper or other thing in which seeds is placed or packed without affecting its quality;	
	(j) "dealer" means a person who carries on the business of buying and selling, exporting or importing seed, and includes an agent of a dealer;	
	(k) "distributor" means a person who engaged by a producer or an importer or an exporter for stocking his seeds for sale to a dealer and includes his agent;	
	(l) "farmer" means any person who— cultivates crops by cultivating the land himself; or cultivates crops by directly supervising the cultivation of land through any other person, with or without land ownership, and does not include any company, trader or dealer who engages in the procurement and sale of seeds on a commercial basis;	
	(m) "import" with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means bringing into India from a place outside India;	
	(n) "kind" means one or more related species or sub-species of plants each individually or collectively known by one common name such as rice, wheat and maize;	
	(o) "Member" means a member of the Committee;	
	(p) "misbranded" a seed shall be deemed to be misbranded if—	
	(i) it is a substitute for, or resembles in a manner likely to deceive another variety of seed under the name of which it is sold, and is not plainly and conspicuously labelled so as to indicate its true nature;	

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	(ii) the container containing the seeds or the label on the container bears any statement, design regarding the quality or the variety of seed contained therein, which is false or misleading in any material particular or if the container is otherwise deceptive with respect to its contents;	
	(iii) the label contains any reference to registration other than the registration number;	
	(iv) the container containing the seeds or the label on the container bears the name of a fictitious individual or company as the dealer or distributor of the variety; or	
	(q) "national seed varieties" means those kinds or varieties which are registered for cultivation in more than one State;	
	(r) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression "notify" shall be construed accordingly;	
	(s) "plant nursery" means any place, where plants are, in the regular course of business, produced or propagated and sold for transplantation;	
	(t) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;	
	(u) "producer" means a person, group of persons, firm or organisation who grows or organises the production of seeds, but does not include a farmer;	
	(v) "Registration Sub-Committee" means the Registration Sub-Committees constituted under sub-section (1) of section 9;	
	(w) "Registrar" means a Registrar appointed under section 12;	
	(x) "registered kind or variety" in relation to any seed, means any kind or variety thereof, registered under section 13;	
	(y) "regulation" means the regulations made by the Committee under this Act;	
	(z) "seed" means any type of living embryo or propagule, including seedlings, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, roots, cuttings, all types of grafts, tissue culture plantlets, synthetic seeds and other vegetatively propagated material, capable of re-generation and giving rise to a plant which is true to such type on which it was produced except in case of seed of hybrids where performance is assured for first filial generation only and includes seeds of	

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	(i) cereals, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fiber crops, forage and fodder crops, green manures, sugar crops; (ii) fruit, vegetables, spices, flower crops, ornamental crops, plantation crops;	
	(za) "Seed Analyst" means a Seed Analyst appointed under sub-section (1) of section 30;	
	(zb) "Seed Inspector" means a Seed Inspector appointed under sub-section (1) of section 31;	
	(zc) "seed processing" means the process by which seeds and planting materials are dried, threshed, shelled, ginned or de-linted, cleaned, graded or treated;	
	(zd) "spurious seed" means any seed which is not true to type or traits or does not meet minimum limit of genetic purity;	
	(ze) "State Government" in relation to a Union territory, means the Administrator thereof;	
	(zf) "State Seed Committee" means the Committee constituted under section 10;	
	(zg) "State Seed Testing Laboratory" in relation to any State, means the Laboratory established or declared as such under sub-section (2) of section 29 for that State;	
	(zh) "State seed varieties" means those kinds or varieties which are registered for cultivation in one State only;	
	(zi) "sub-standard seed" means any seed which does not meet the specified minimum limits of germination, physical purity, seed health and other seed standards, specified under clause (a) of section 6	
	(zj) "variety" means a plant grouping except micro-organism within a single botanical taxon of the lowest known rank, which can be—	
	(i) defined by the expression of the characteristics resulting from a given genotype of that plant grouping having commercial value in cultivation in the given production condition or system in the specific agro-climatic zone, as the case may be;	
	(ii) identified by its performance related to use or adaptation, or by expression of the said characteristics in the given production condition or system in the specific agro-climatic zone, as the case may be; and	
	(iii) considered as a unit with regard to its suitability for being propagated, which remains unchanged after such propagation,	

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	and includes propagating material of such variety, extant variety, transgenic variety, farmers' variety and essentially derived variety parents of hybrid variety of a seed propagated plant species along with their product hybrid.	
	<i>Explanation.</i> —For the purposes of this clause, it is hereby clarified that each such parent can be one single genotype or a crossed product of two genotypes, one representing the female parent and the other representing a male parent including a maintainer genotype of the female parent, if male sterility technology is used.	
	(2) The words and expressions used herein but not defined in this Act and defined in the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 shall have the same meaning as are respectively assigned to them in that Act.	53 of 2001.
	CHAPTER II THE CENTRAL SEED COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEES	
	A. CENTRAL SEED COMMITTEE	
Constitution of the Central Seed Committee.	3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute, for the purposes of this Act, a Committee to be called the Central Seed Committee.	
	(2) The headquarters of the Central Seed Committee shall be at New Delhi.	
Composition of the Committee.	4. (1) The Committee referred to in section 3 shall consist of a Chairperson and twenty seven Members as per the composition specified in the first schedule.	
	Provided that Central Government may by notification amend the first schedule from time to time.	
	(2) Temporary association of persons with Committee for specific purposes, resignation, disqualification and removal of Members and procedure of the Committee shall be as may be prescribed.	
Powers and functions of the Committee.	5. The Committee shall be responsible for and shall have all the powers for the effective implementation of this Act as prescribed and shall advise the Central Government and the State Governments on matters relating to—	
	(a) seed programming and planning;	
	(b) seed development, production, storage and processing;	

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	(c) export and import of seeds;	
	(d) standards for registration, certification and seed testing;	
	(e) registration of national seed varieties, State seed varieties and its enforcement; and	
	(f) such other matters as may be prescribed.	
Powers of Central Government to notify minimum limits of germination, purity, seed health, kind or variety etc.	6. The Central Government may by notification, on the recommendations of the Committee, specify—	
	(a) the minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, traits, seed health and additional standards including any other parameters required to be labelled under the laws relating to kind or variety;	
	(b) the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards specifying detailed field and seed standards;	
	(c) the mark or label on the packet or container to indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum limits of germination, genetic and physical purity, traits and seed health and other particulars, such as expected performance of the seed in accordance with the information provided by the producer under section 13;	
	(d) the manner and information to be provided on the container of such seed bears Quick Response Code (QR Code) or other mark generated through Centralized Seed Traceability Portal of Central Government.	
	Explanation. —For the purposes of this section, the expression “seed health standards” means the maximum acceptable limit of the presence of a pathogen such as a virus, bacteria, protozoan, prion, viroid or fungus in the seed lot.	
Procedure of the Committee and its Sub-Committees.	7. The Committee may, subject to approval of the Central Government, make regulations consistent with the provisions of the Act and the rules made there under for the purpose of regulating its own procedure and the procedure of any Sub-Committee thereof.	

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Secretary and other officers of the Committee.	8. The Central Government shall—	
	(a) appoint a Group 'A' officer of the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to be the Secretary of the Committee; and	
	(b) provide the Committee with such technical and other officers and employees, as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Committee under this Act, from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.	
	B. REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES	
Constitution of Registration Sub-Committees, etc.	9. (1) The Committee shall constitute Sub-Committees to be called the Registration Sub-Committees consisting of a Chairman and such number of other members, to assist him in the discharge of the functions of the Committee, as may be prescribed.	
	(2) It shall be the duty of the Registration Sub-Committees—	
	(a) to recommend kind or variety of seeds for registration after scrutinising their claims as made in the application in such manner as may be prescribed; and	
	(b) to perform such other functions as are assigned to it by the Committee from time to time.	
	<i>Explanation.</i> —The expression kinds or “varieties of seeds” include the National Seed Varieties and the State Seed Varieties.	
	(3) The Committee may appoint as many other Sub-Committees including a Sub-Committee on Seed Certification as it deems fit consisting wholly of the Members of the Committee or wholly of other persons or partly of Members of the Committee and partly of other persons as it thinks fit to exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to them.	

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	C. STATE SEED COMMITTEE	
Constitution of State Seed Committee.	10. (1) Every State Government shall, by notification, constitute a State Seed Committee which shall consist of a Chairman and such number of other Members not exceeding fifteen, who may be appointed or nominated by the State Government in such manner as may be prescribed.	
	(2) It shall be the duty of the State Seed Committee to—	
	(a) advise the Registration Sub-Committee on registration of State seed varieties;	
	(b) advise the State Government on registration of seed producers, seed processing units, seed dealers, distributor and plant nurseries;	
	(c) maintain, in each district, a list of seed dealers, distributor, seed producers, seed processing units and plant nurseries;	
	(d) seek information from persons engaged in the production, supply, distribution, trade or commerce in seeds of any kind or variety regarding stocks, prices, sales and other information in the manner as may be prescribed;	
	(e) advise the State Government and the Committee on all matters arising out of the administration and implementation of this Act; and	
	(f) carry out other functions assigned to, by, or under this Act.	
	CHAPTER III REGISTRATION OF KINDS OR VARIETIES OF SEEDS	
National Register on Seed Varieties	11. (1) For the purposes of this Act, a Register of all Kinds or Varieties of seed to be called the National Register on Seed Varieties shall be kept under the control and management of the Registrar wherein all specifications, as may be prescribed, shall be maintained.	
	(2) The Registrar shall, within such intervals and in such manner as may be prescribed, publish the list of Kinds or Varieties which have been registered during that interval.	
	(3) The Registrar shall exercise such powers and perform such roles and responsibilities as assigned by the Central Government.	

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Registrar and other officers	12. The Central Government shall for the purpose of registration such kind or varieties under this Act—	
	Appoint an officer of the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to be the Registrar;	
	Provided that such officer can also be from any authority or agency under the direct control of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;	
	Provided further that the Central Government may nominate Joint Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrar and other technical and administrative officers and staff, as may be necessary to assist the Registrar for the efficient performance of the functions of the Registration under this Act.	
Registration of any kinds or variety.	13. (1) On and from the date of commencement of this Act, no seed of any kind or variety except farmers' variety and kind or variety produced exclusively for export purpose shall, for the purpose of sowing or planting by any person, be sold unless such kind or variety is registered in the manner referred to under sub-section (2) of section 14:	
	Provided that the variety notified under section 5 of the Seeds Act, 1966 on the date of the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be registered under this Act	
	Provided further that the varieties not notified under section 5 of the Seeds Act, 1966 which are in cultivation on the date of the commencement of this Act shall deemed to be provisionally registered, if a list of those kinds or varieties which are under cultivation is furnished to the Registrar within a period of six months under sub-sections (2) and (3). The procedure for furnishing detailed information relating to kinds or varieties as may be prescribed.	
	(a) Deemed provisionally registered varieties shall be registered within a period of three years, or as specified by notification, in accordance with the procedure referred under Sub-section (2) of section 13 and section 14.	
	(2) Every person shall make an application to the Registration Sub-Committee for registration of any kind or variety in such form and containing such particulars and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.	

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	Provided that a person who made applications for registration of any kind or variety may at any time by giving notice to the Registration Sub-Committee may withdraw his application specifying the reason.	
	(3) Subject to the provisions of section 13 the Registration Sub-Committee may recommend to register or refuse to recommend or defer the decision to recommend any kind or variety on the basis of the results of multi-locational trials for such period as may be prescribed to assess the value for cultivation and use of that kind or variety:	
	Provided that no application for registration shall be refused under this sub-section unless the applicant has been given an opportunity to represent his case.	
	<i>Explanation.</i>—For the purposes of this section, the expression “person” includes a person or group of persons or any institution who bred, evolve or develop any kind or variety, or producer, dealer, distributor, vendor or importer of seeds.	
Procedure for registration.	14. (1) On receipt of the application referred to in section 13 for the registration of kind or variety, the Registration Sub-Committee may, after such enquiry as it deems fit and after satisfying itself that the kind or variety to which the application relates conforms to the claims made by any person or by the seller as regards the efficacy of the kind or variety and its safety to the human beings and animals, may recommend to register the kind or variety. Based on the recommendation of Registration Sub-Committee, the Central Seed Committee shall decide to approve or defer or reject the registration of a particular kind or variety. On approval of the Central Seed Committee, the Registrar will enter the details in the register, allot a registration number, and issue a certificate of registration.	
	(2) On the advice of the Central Seed Committee, the Registration Sub-Committee may, having regard to the efficacy of the kind or variety and its safety to human beings and animals, vary the conditions subject to which a certificate of registration has been granted and may, for that purpose, require the certificate holder by notice in writing to deliver up the certificate to it within such time as may be specified in the notice.	

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Revocation, Suspension and Withdrawal of Registration	15. (1) The Central Seed Committee may, on receipt of a complaint or suo motu, or on the recommendation of a State Government, suspend the registration of kind or variety for such period as it may deem fit, or revoke the registration granted under section 14, after being satisfied that—	
	(a) the registration was obtained by misrepresentation or concealment of essential data;	
	(b) the kind or variety is not performing in accordance with the information furnished under sub-section (2) of section 13, or has become obsolete or has outlived its utility; or	
	(c) prevention of commercial exploitation of such kind or variety is necessary—	
	(i) in the public interest or to protect human beings, animals and plant life, or to avoid serious prejudice to the environment; or	
	(ii) for any other reason recommended by the Registration Sub-Committee.	
	(2) No order of suspension or revocation of registration under this section shall be made unless the holder of the registration has been given an opportunity of showing cause against such action.	
	(3) A person holding a valid registration of a kind or variety may, at any time, apply in the prescribed manner to the Registrar for withdrawal of such kind or variety. On the recommendation of the Central Seed Committee, the Registrar shall revoke the registration of that kind or variety.	
Evaluation of performance.	16. (1) The Committee may, accredit eligible centres for conducting trials to assess the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of any kind or variety, which may includes the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Central Agricultural Universities, State Agricultural Universities and other organisations fulfilling such eligibility requirements as may be prescribed.	
	(2) Procedure and Protocol for conducting trials to assess the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of any kind or variety, by these accredited centres shall be as may be notified from time to time.	

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	(3) The Central Government may, on the recommendations of the Committee, by notification, recognise any organization established in territory outside India, for conducting trials to assess the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of any kind or variety as may be prescribed.	
	CHAPTER IV REGISTRATION OF SEED PRODUCERS, SEED PROCESSING UNITS, SEED DEALERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND PLANT NURSERIES	
	A. SEED PRODUCERS AND SEED PROCESSING UNITS	
Seed producers and seed processing units to be registered.	17. (1) No producer or his agent shall grow or organise the production of seed unless he is registered under this Act by the State Government concerned where he grows or organises such production:	
	(2) No person shall operate a seed processing unit unless such unit is registered under this Act by the State Government in which he processes the seed:	
	(3) The State Government, shall register a producer or seed processing unit, if he or it meets the specifications prescribed in terms of infrastructure, equipment and qualified manpower.	
	(4) Every application for registration under sub-section (3) shall be made in such form and manner and shall be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed.	
	(5) The State Government, may, after making such enquiry as it thinks fit, grant a certificate for operating a seed producing or a seed processing unit subject to such conditions and in such form as may be prescribed.	
	(6) Every seed producer and every seed processing unit shall maintain such records, and furnish periodic returns on the quantity of seeds of different kinds or varieties produced or processed by it to the State Government, in such form and at such time as may be <i>prescribed</i> .	
	(7) The State Government, may, after giving the holder of certificate of registration under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) an opportunity of being heard suspend or cancel the registration if—	
	(a) such registration has been obtained by misrepresentation as to a material particular relating to the specification in terms of infrastructure, equipment or availability of qualified manpower; or	

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	(b) any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under has been contravened.	
	(8) (a) In order to incentivize excellence in research and development in the seed sector and to promote ease of doing business, the Central Government may establish a merit-based and transparent Central Accreditation System for companies operating in multiple States. Companies accredited under such a system shall be deemed to be registered under this section from the date of grant of accreditation. (b) Upon submission of the original or digitally verified accreditation certificate, the State Registering Authority shall forthwith record the accredited companies in the State Register and issue the corresponding registration number and certificate. (c) No application for registration submitted by an accredited unit shall be rejected on technical, financial, or infrastructural grounds. Any rejection on grounds other than forgery or material misrepresentation of the accreditation certificate shall be ultra vires the provisions of this Act.	
	B. SEED DEALERS AND DISTRIBUTORS	
Seed dealers and distributors to be registered.	18 (1) Every dealer and distributor shall obtain a registration certificate as a dealer and distributor in seeds from the State Government before selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, import or export or otherwise supply any seed by himself or by any other person on his behalf.	
	(2) Every applicant for registration under sub-section (1) shall be required to furnish information about seed stocks, sales and other related information as may be prescribed.	
	(3) Every application for registration under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form and manner and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.	
	(4) The State Government may, after making such enquiry and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit within such time, grant a certificate of registration as a dealer and distributor in seeds in such form as may be prescribed.	
	(5) Every dealer and distributor registered under this section shall furnish to the State Government such information and returns regarding seed stocks, seed lots, expiry date of seed lots and other related information at such intervals as may be prescribed.	

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	(6) The State Government may, after giving the dealer and distributor an opportunity of being heard, suspend or cancel a certificate granted under this section if—	
	(a) such registration had been obtained by misrepresentation of any material fact;	
	(b) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under.	
	(7) Any company having accorded accreditation under sub-section 8 of section 17 may also be considered deemed registered under this section;	
	C. PLANT NURSERY	
Plant nursery to be registered.	19. (1) No person shall conduct or carry on the business of plant nursery for any purposes of this Act unless such nursery is registered with the State Government within one year from the date of commencement of this Act.	
	Provided that the Central Government may, by notification, and subject to such conditions as it may specify therein, exempt small plant nurseries from the registration.	
	(2) Every application for registration under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form and contain such particulars and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.	
Duties of registration holders of plant nursery.	20. (1) Every person who is a holder of a registration of a plant nursery under section 19 shall—	
	(a) keep a complete record of the origin or source of every planting material and performance record of the kind or variety from which seeds were sourced or the mother plant in the nursery as the case may be;	
	(b) keep a layout plan of raising seedlings or showing the position of the root-stocks and scions used in raising the plants;	
	(c) keep a performance record of the mother plant in the nursery;	
	(d) keep the nursery plants source or seeds or the parent trees used for the production or propagation of plants free from infectious or contagious insects, pests or diseases affecting plants; and	

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	(e) furnish such information to the State Government on the production, stocks, sales and prices of planting material in the nursery and at such intervals as may be prescribed.	
	(2) The State Government may, after giving the holder an opportunity of being heard, suspend or cancel a certificate granted under this section if—	
	(a) such registration had been obtained by misrepresentation of any material fact;	
	(b) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under.	
	CHAPTER V	
	REGULATION OF SALE OF SEED AND SEED CERTIFICATION AGENCIES	
Regulation of sale of seeds of registered kinds or varieties.	21. (1) No person shall himself, or by any other person on his behalf, carry on the business of selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, import or export or otherwise supply of seed of any registered kind or variety unless—	
	(a) such seed is identifiable as to its kind or variety;	
	(b) such seed conforms to the minimum limit of germination, genetic purity, physical purity, traits, seed health and other seed standards specified in the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards required to be labelled under the laws relating to kind or variety specified under clause (a) of section 6;	
	(c) the container of such seed bears in the prescribed manner, the mark or label bearing the correct particulars thereof, specified under clause (c) of section 6;	
	(d) the container of such seed bears Quick Response Code (QR Code) or other mark in the prescribed manner, generated through Centralized Seed Traceability Portal of Central Government. specified under clause (d) of section 6; QR code or other mark discloses the details of certification agency or self-certification the test results confirm the field and seed standards specified under the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards specified under clause (b) and clause (e) of section 6;	

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	(e) Every dealer, distributor, producer, National Agriculture Research System including Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes, Central Agriculture University and State Agriculture or Horticulture University and any person or agency involved in seed production and distribution shall adopt and comply with the Seeds Traceability norms and will onboard the Centralized Seed Traceability portal of the Central Government.	
	(f) complies with such other requirements as may be prescribed.	
	(2) No person shall be permitted to carry on the business of selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell, import or export or otherwise supply of the misbranded seed kind or variety.	
Regulation of sale price in emergent situation.	22. The Central Government may regulate sale price of seeds of any kind or variety in the emergent situation in such manner as may be prescribed.	
	<i>Explanation.</i> —For the purposes of this section, the expression “emergent situation” means scarcity of seeds, abnormal rise in prices, monopolistic pricing or profiteering in respect of a particular kind or variety.	
Seed Certification Agency.	23. The State Government may by notification, establish Seed Certification Agency to carry out the functions entrusted to the Seed Certification Agency by or under this Act.	
Accreditation of Seed Certification Agencies.	24. (1) The Central Seed Committee or as the case may be, the State Government with the previous approval of the Central Seed Committee, may accredit the organisations owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Governments or any other organisations to carry out certification, on the fulfilment of such criteria, as may be prescribed.	
	(2) The accredited organisations shall be subject to such regulation, inspection and control of the Central Government or as the case may be, the State Government, as may be prescribed.	
	(3) The accreditation may be withdrawn by the Central Government or as the case may be, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government, for reasons to be recorded in writing and after giving to the concerned organisation a reasonable opportunity of being heard.	

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	<i>Explanation.</i> —For the purposes of this section, the expression “accreditation” means the process of quality control in Seed Certification Agencies, as a result of evaluation or assignment or by any other specific method followed by the State Government.	
Grant of certificate by Seed Certification Agency.	25. (1) Any person selling, keeping for sale, offering to sell or otherwise supplying any seed of any registered kind or variety may, if he desires to have such seed certified by the Seed Certification Agency, apply to that Agency for the grant of a certificate for the purpose.	
	(2) Every application under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form, shall contain such particulars and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed.	
	(3) On receipt of an application under sub-section (1), the Seed Certification Agency shall, after such enquiry as it thinks fit and after satisfying itself that the seed to which the application relates conforms to the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards, grant a certificate in such form and on such conditions as may be prescribed:	
Revocation of certificate.	26. If the Seed Certification Agency is satisfied, either on a reference made to it in this behalf or otherwise, that—	
	(a) the certificate granted by it under section 25 has been obtained by misrepresentation as to an essential fact; or	
	(b) the holder of the certificate has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the certificate has been granted;	
Recognition of seed certification agencies in territory outside India.	27. The Central Government may, on the recommendations of the Committee, by notification, recognise any Seed Certification Agency established in territory outside India, for such purposes as may be prescribed	
	CHAPTER VI	
	REVIEW AND APPEALS	
Review and Appeal to Appellate Authority.	28. (1) The Central Seed Committee, suo motu, or on application may review, any of its decision within such time and such manner as may be prescribed. The Central Seed Committee may review such order only on the grounds of--	

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	(a) discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within the knowledge of the applicant or could not be produced by him at the time when the order was made; or (b) mistake or error apparent on the face of the record; or (c) any other sufficient reason, to be recorded in writing by the Central Seed Committee. No such order shall be reviewed more than once.	
	(2). Any person aggrieved by an order of the Registration Sub-Committee may prefer an appeal to the Central Seed Committee within such time and such manner as may be prescribed. The appeal may be filed on any one or more of the following grounds- (a) error of law or fact in the order appealed against; (b) violation of principles of natural justice or prescribed procedure; (c) any other sufficient ground to be recorded in writing by the Appellate Authority. The Central Seed Committee may, after giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as it deems fit, including confirming, modifying or setting aside the order of the Registration Sub-Committee.	
	(3) (a) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the State Government, as the case may be, under section 17 or the State Government under section 18 or section 19 or any order of the adjudicating officer under section 34 may, within thirty days from the date on which the decision is communicated to him prefer an appeal to such authority (hereinafter referred to as the appellate authority) appointed in the manner as prescribed.	
	(b) An appellate authority shall consist of a single person or such number of persons not exceeding three.	
	(c) The form and manner in which an appeal may be preferred under clause (a), the fee payable for such appeal and the procedure to be followed by the appellate authority shall be such as may be prescribed.	

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	CHAPTER VII SEED ANALYSIS AND SEEDS TESTING	
Establishment of Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories.	29. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, establish one or more-Central Seed Testing Laboratories or declare any seed testing laboratory as the Central Seed Testing Laboratory to carry out the functions entrusted to the Central Seed Testing Laboratory by or under this Act in the prescribed manner.	
	(2) The State Government may, by notification, establish one or more State Seed Testing Laboratories or declare any seed testing laboratory in the Government or non-Government sector as a State Seed Testing Laboratory where analysis of seed of any kind or variety shall be carried out, under this Act, in the prescribed manner.	
	(3) Every Seed Testing Laboratory referred to in sub-section (1) shall have as many Seed Analysts as the Central Government may consider necessary.	
	(4) Every Seed Testing Laboratory referred to in sub-section (2) shall have as many Seed Analysts as the State Government may consider necessary.	
	(5) The Central Seed Testing Laboratory referred to in sub-section (1) and the State Seed Testing Laboratory referred to in sub-section (2) shall conform to such standards and adopt such practices as may be prescribed.	
Seed Analysts.	30. (1) In case of the Central Seed Testing Laboratory, the Central Government and in other cases the State Government may, by notification, appoint such persons as the concerned Government thinks fit to be the Seed Analysts.	
	(2) The qualifications and the area of limits of jurisdiction of the Seed Analysts referred to in sub-section (1), shall be such as may be prescribed.	
	(3) The details of report of Seed Analyst and application to court for seed analysis by the Seed Analysts as may be prescribed.	
Seed Inspectors.	31. (1) The State Government may, by notification, appoint such persons as it thinks fit, having the prescribed qualifications, to be the Seed Inspectors and define the areas within which they shall exercise jurisdiction.	
	(2) Every Seed Inspector shall be sub-ordinate to such authority as the State Government may specify in this behalf.	

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	(3) The Central Government may give such direction as when required to the Seed Inspector to draw the sample of seeds of any kind or variety in a manner specified in the Section 32.	
Powers of Seed Inspectors.	32. (1) the Seed Inspector may, in such manner as may be prescribed—	
	(a) take samples of any seed of any kind or variety from—	
	(i) any person selling such seed; or	
	(ii) any person who is in the course of conveying, delivering or preparing to deliver such seed to a purchaser or a consignee; or	
	(iii) a purchaser or a consignee after delivery of such seed to him;	
	(b) send such sample for analysis to the Seed Analyst of the area within which such sample has been taken;	
	(c) with prior information to District Administration, enter and search and at all reasonable times, with such assistance, if any, as he considers necessary, any place in which he has reasons to believe that an offence under this Act has been or is being committed, order in writing the person in possession of any seed in respect of which the offence has been or is being committed, not to dispose of any stock of such seed for a specific period not exceeding fifteen days or, unless the alleged offence is such that the defect may be removed by the possessor of the seed, seize the stock of such seed;	
	(d) examine any record, register, document or any other material object found in any place mentioned in clause (c) and seize the same if he has reasons to believe that it may furnish evidence of the commission of an offence punishable under this Act; and	
	(e) exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act or any rule or regulation made there under.	
	(2) The power conferred by this section includes the power to break-open any container in which any seed of any kind or variety may be contained or to break-open the door of any premises where any such seed may be kept for sale:	

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	Provided that the power to break-open the door shall be exercised only after the owner or any other person in occupation of the premises, if he is present therein, refuses to open the door on being called upon to do so.	
	(3) Where the Seed Inspector takes any action under clause (a) of sub-section (1), he shall, call not less than two independent persons from the same locality to be present at the time when such action is taken and take their signatures on a memorandum to be prepared in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	
	(4) The provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, shall, so far as may be, apply to any search or seizure under this section as they apply to any search or seizure made under the authority of a warrant issued under section 44 of <u>Bharatiya</u> Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, or, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the said law.	46 of 2023
	CHAPTER VIII IMPORT OF SEEDS	
Import of seeds.	33. (1) All import of seeds—	
	(a) shall be subject to the provisions of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, or any corresponding order made under section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 or any other law relating to seeds and plant quarantine for the time being in force:	2 of 1914.
	(b) shall conform to minimum limits of germination, genetic purity, traits, physical purity, seed health and other seed standards specified in the Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standards required to be labelled under the laws relating to kind or variety as prescribed under section 6; and	
	(c) shall be subject to registration as may be granted on the basis of the information furnished by the importer on the basis of results of multi-locational trials conducted in the exporting Country.	
	(2) The Central Government may, by notification, permit to import an unregistered kind or variety in such quantity and subject to fulfilling of such conditions as may be specified therein for research and trial purposes.	

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	CHAPTER IX	
	OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENT	
Punishment for trivial offence	34. (1) if any person commits any offence as specified in schedule 2 (A), he shall be served with a written notice for rectification or improvement by the competent authority and for every subsequent offence committed within a period of three years from the date of such notice, shall be liable to a penalty of fifty thousand rupees;	
	Provided that where an aggrieved person prefers an appeal against an order of the Adjudicating Officer imposing a penalty, any offence committed during the pendency of such appeal shall be deemed to be a subsequent offence for the purposes of this section.	
Punishment for minor offence	(2) (a) if any person commits any offence as specified in schedule 2 (B), he shall be liable to penalty of one lakh rupees;	
	Provided that, if the person, having been previously imposed a penalty under this sub-section, commits any further offence of a like nature within three years, he shall be liable to a penalty of two lakh rupees.	
Punishment for major offence.	(3) (a) if any person commits any offence as specified in schedule 2 (C), he shall be liable to penalty of ten lakh rupees;	
	Provided that, if any person, having been previously imposed a penalty under clause (a), commits a further offence of a like nature within five years, he shall be liable to a penalty of twenty lakh rupees.	
	Provided further that, if any person, after having been previously imposed a penalty under the second proviso, commits a further offence of the same nature within five years, he shall be liable to a penalty of thirty lakh rupees with cancellation of his dealer registration or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with both.	

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	Provided also that, any such offence may, either before or after the institution of prosecution, be compounded by the competent court on payment of a sum equivalent to twice the amount of the maximum fine prescribed for such offence.	
	(2) The Central Government may, by notification revise the schedule 2 (A) to 2 (C) and also enhance the prescribed penalty or both provided under sub-sections (1) (2) and (3) from time to time.	
	Provided further that, the provisions of section 34 shall not apply to farmers who sell or exchange seed produced by them on their own holdings.	
Cognizance of offences.	35. (1) Adjudication.- The Central Government, State Government or the Union territory administration, as the case may be, for the purposes of determining the penalties under section 34, may by notification, authorize any officer, having jurisdiction, to be the adjudicating officer to hold an inquiry and impose penalty, in the manner as may be prescribed, after giving any person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.	
	(2) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act, except upon a complaint filed by Seed Inspector appointed under Section 31.	
Forfeiture of property.	36. When any person has been convicted under this Act for the contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under, the seed in respect of which the contravention has been committed shall be forfeited to the Central Government.	
Offences by companies.	37. Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:	
	Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment under this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his/her knowledge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.	

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	CHAPTER X MISCELLANEOUS	
Power of Central Government to give directions to State Governments and Committee.	38. (1) The Central Government may give such directions to, —	
	(i) any State Government; and	
	(ii) the Committee, as may appear to the Central Government to be necessary for carrying into execution in the State any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule made thereunder.	
	(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Committee shall, in the discharge of its functions and the performance of duties under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time.	
	(3) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.	
Exemptions from provisions of the Act.	39. The Central Government may, by notification, and subject to such conditions as it may specify therein, exempt any educational, scientific, research or extension organisation from all or any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under.	
Protection of action taken in good faith.	40. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government or any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.	
Act to have overriding effect.	41. Any order made under this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any enactment other than this Act or any instrument having effect by virtue of any enactment other than this Act.	
Seed Inspectors and Seed Analysts, etc. to be public servants.	42. The Seed Analysts appointed under section 30 and the Seed Inspectors appointed under section 31 shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of the provisions of this Act to be public servants within the meaning of Sub-section (2) of section 28 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.	

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Power of Central Government to make rules.	43. (1) The Central Government may, by notification and subject to condition of previous publication, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.	
	(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—	
	(a) the manner of temporary association of persons with Committee for specific purposes, resignation, disqualification and removal of Members and procedure of the Committee under sub-section (2) of section 4;	
	(b) the matters to be prescribed under clause (f) of section 5;	
	(c) the number of other members who shall assist the Chairperson of the Registration Sub-Committee to discharge its functions under sub-section (1) of section 9;	
	(d) the manner of scrutinizing the claims as made in the applications under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 9;	
	(e) manner of appointment or nomination of Members of the State Seed Committee under sub-section (1) of section 10;	
	(f) the manner of seeking information by a State Seed Committee under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 10;	
	(g) the specifications which shall be maintained in the National Register of kinds or varieties under sub-section (1) of section 11;	
	(h) intervals and manner in which the list of kinds or varieties shall be published under sub-section (2) of section 11;	
	(i) the procedure for furnishing detailed information relating to kinds or varieties under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 13;	
	(j) the form and particulars of application and the fee accompanying such application under sub-section (2) of section 13;	
	(k) the period required to assess the value for cultivation and use of kind or variety on the results of multi-location trials conducted under sub-section (3) of section 13;	
	(l) the manner of giving application to the Registration Sub-Committee for withdrawing his kind or variety from the registration under sub-section (4) of section 15;	

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	(m) the eligibility requirement which an organisation shall fulfil for accreditation under sub-section (1) of section 16;	
	(n) the manner of recognizing any organization established territory outside India for conducting trials to assess VCU of any kind and variety under sub-section (3) of section 16;	
	(o) the specification required to be fulfilled for registration as a producer or seed producing unit under sub-section (3) of section 17	
	(p) the form and manner in which an application for registration under sub-section (3) of section 17 shall be made and the fee which shall accompany such application under sub-section (4) of the said section;	
	(q) the conditions subject to which and the form in which a certificate for operating a seed producing or seed processing unit may be granted under sub-section (5) of section 17;	
	(r) the maintenance of records, the form in which and the time within which periodic returns shall be filed under sub-section (6) of section 17;	
	(s) the information which an applicant for dealership in seeds shall be furnished under sub-section (2) of section 18;	
	(t) the form and manner in which an application for registration as seed dealer and distributor and the accompanied fee to such application under sub-section (3) of section 18;	
	(u) the form in which a certificate of registration as a dealer and distributor in seeds shall be granted under sub-section (4) of section 18;	
	(v) the intervals at which and the information and return which shall be furnished to the State Government under sub-section (5) of section 18;	
	(vv) framework and guidelines for central accreditation system under section 18 (7);	
	(w) the form in which an application for registration of a plant nursery shall be made, the particulars which such application shall contain and fee which shall accompany such application under sub-section (2) of section 19;	
	(x) the information on production, stocks, sales and prices of planting material in a nursery which shall be furnished to the State Government and the intervals at which such information shall be furnished under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 20;	

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	(y) the manner in which the container of seeds shall bear the mark or label under clause (c) of section 21;	
	(z) the manner in which the container of shall bears Quick Response Code (QR Code) generated through Centralized Seed Traceability Portal of Central Government under clause (d) of section 21;	
	(za) the requirement which a person carrying on business of selling, etc., of any registered kind or variety of seeds shall comply with under clause (e) of section 21;	
	(zb) manner of regulation of sale price of seeds of any kind or variety by the Central Government under section 22;	
	(zc) the criteria to be fulfilled under sub-section (1) of section 24;	
	(zd) the regulation, inspection and control of Central Government or the concerned State Government and the Seeds Certification Agency shall carry out or have on an accredited organizations under sub-section (2) of section 24;	
	(ze) the form of application and the particulars to be furnished in such application and the fee which shall accompany such application under sub-section (2) of section 25;	
	(zf) the form in which and the conditions subject to which a certificate shall be granted under sub-section (3) of section 25;	
	(zg) recognition of seed certification agency in territory outside India under section 27.	
	(zh) the time and manner of Central Seed Committee, suo motu, or on application may review, any of its decision under sub-section (1) of section 28;	
	(zi) the manner and time in which make appeal on the order of the Registration Sub-Committee appeal to the Central Seed Committee under sub-section (2) of section 28;	
	(zj) the manner constitution of Appellate Authority under clause (a) sub-section (3) of section 28;	
	(zk) the form and manner in which an appeal shall be preferred and the fee which such appeal shall accompany and the procedure which the appellate authority shall follow under clause (c) sub-section (3) of section 28;	
	(zl) the manner in which Central Seed Testing Laboratories established or declared under sub-section (1) of section 29 shall carry out its functions;	

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	(zm) the manner in which State Seed Testing Laboratories established or declared under sub-section (2) of section 29 shall carry out its functions;	
	(zn) the standards to be conformed to and the practices to be adopted under sub-section (5) of section 29;	
	(zo) the qualifications which a person to be appointed as Seed Analyst shall possess under sub-section (2) of section 30;	
	(zp) the manner in which and the time within which the report is to be sent to the court under sub-section (3) of section 30;	
	(zq) the qualifications which a person to be appointed as Seed Inspector shall possess under sub-section (1) of section 31;	
	(zr) the manner of taking samples under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 32;	
	(zs) the manner of sending samples for analysis under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 32;	
	(zt) the manner of entering and search under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 32;	
	(zu) the manner of examining any record, register, document or any material object under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 32;	
	(zv) the manner of exercising such other powers under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 32;	
	(zw) the form and manner in which the memorandum shall be prepared under sub-section (3) of section 32;	
	(zx) the manner of imposing fine for such offence under sub-section (3) of section 34;	
	(zy) the manner holding inquiry and impose penalty under of sub-section (1) of section 35	
	(zz) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, by rules.	
Power of Committee to make regulations.	44. (1) The Committee may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by notification, make regulations, consistent with this Act and the rules made there under to carry out the provisions of this Act.	
	(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—	

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	(a) the procedure in regard to transaction of business at meetings of the Committee (including the quorum at meetings) under sub-section (1) of section 5;	
	(b) the procedure of the Committee and its Sub-Committees under section 7; and	
	(c) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, specified by regulations or in respect of which provision is to be made by regulations.	
Laying of certain notifications, rules and regulations etc.	45. Every notification issued under sections 27 and 39 and every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions as aforesaid, both the Houses agree in making any modification in the notification or the rule or the regulation or both Houses agree that the notification or the rule or the regulation should not be so made, the notification or the rule or the regulation shall, thereafter, have effect only on such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification or the rule or the regulation.	
Transitional provision.	46. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Committees functioning as such immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue to so function until a new Committee is constituted under this Act, but on the constitution of a new Committee under this Act, the Members of the existing Committee holding office before such constitution shall cease to hold office.	
Power to remove difficulties.	47. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:	
	Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.	
	(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.	

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Repeal and savings.	48. (1) The Seeds Act, 1966 is hereby repealed.	54 of 1966.
	(2) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in the General Clauses, 1897, with respect to repeals, no such repeal shall affect—	10 of 1897.
	(a) the previous operation of the law so repealed or anything duly done or suffered there under; or	
	(b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the law so repealed; or	
	(c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the Act so repealed; or	
	(d) any investigation, proceeding, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid; and any such investigation, proceedings, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced; any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Act had not been passed:	
	Provided that, subject to any saving provision made elsewhere in this Act, anything done or any action taken or any rule made or any notification or order issued under the provisions of the Act so repealed shall, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done, taken, made or issued under the corresponding provisions of this Act, and shall continue to be in force accordingly, unless and until expressly or impliedly repealed by anything done, action taken, rules made or, notification or order issued under this Act.	
	(3) Notwithstanding such repeal any kind or variety that has been notified under the law as so repealed shall be deemed to have been registered under this Act, and any seed certification agency established under section 8 of the Seeds Act, 1966 shall be deemed to have been established or recognised, as the case may be, under this Act.	54 of 1966.

First schedule
Part A

[See section 4 (1)]

The Central Seed Committee shall consist of the following Members, to be appointed or nominated by the Central Government, namely:—
(a) the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare – Chairperson, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(b) the Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(c) the Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Authority – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(d) the Chairperson, National Bio-diversity Authority – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(e) the Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(f) the Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(g) the Joint Secretary in-charge of seeds in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(h) the Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(i) a representative of the Department of Bio-technology, Government of India, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(j) a representative of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(k) the Director, National Centre for Aromatic and Medicinal Plants – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(l) Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi – Member, <i>ex-officio</i> ;
(m) the Secretary (Agriculture), to the State Government one each from the geographical zones as specified in the Part B of the first schedule to this Act on rotation basis – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(n) Director, State Seed Certification Agency from one State which is not represented under clause (m) – Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(o) Managing Director, State Seeds Corporation, from one State which is not represented under clauses (m) and (n) Member, <i>ex officio</i> ;
(p) the representative of farmers, one each from the geographical zones of the country as specified in the Part B of the first schedule to this Act on rotation basis – Members;
(q) two representatives of seed industry – Members; and
(r) two specialists or experts of seeds in the field of agriculture and horticulture – Members.
(2) The manner of appointment or nomination of Members referred to in clauses (p), (q) and (r), the honorarium payable to and the other terms and conditions of their service shall be notified from time to time.

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(3) The Members, other than *ex officio* Members, shall hold office for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment:

Provided that the term of office of an *ex officio* Member shall continue so long as he holds the office by virtue of which he is a Member.

(4) Any vacancy occurring in the office of the Member whether by reason of his death, resignation or inability to discharge his functions owing to illness or other incapacity, shall be filled by the Central Government by making a fresh appointment within a period of one month from the date on which such vacancy occurs and the Member so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the person in whose place he is so appointed.

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	First schedule Part B [See section 4 (1) (n) and (q)]	
	GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES ZONE-I Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. ZONE-II Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. ZONE-III Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. ZONE-IV Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. ZONE-V Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.	

Second schedule

Part A

[See section 34 (1)]

TRIVIAL OFFENCE

Serial Number	Description
1.	who fail to maintain records with respect to business of seeds
2.	who fail to display registration certificate
3.	who fail to affix label on the seed packet
4.	who fail to fix QR code generated by Central Seed Traceability Portal
5.	who does the seed business on expired registration certificate which was expired in previous 12 months
6.	who sale registered variety of seeds to the farmers in area which is not recommended for cultivation in the particular area
7.	Any other offence notified by the Central Government from time to time

Second schedule

Part B

[See section 34 (2)]

MINOR OFFENCE

Serial Number	Description
1.	who misbrands any seed
2.	who sale or supply of sub-standard seeds
3.	who sale seeds on price higher than the price fixed by the Central Government
4.	who fail to upload details on SATHI portal

Second schedule

Part C

[See section 34(3)]

MAJOR OFFENCE

Serial Number	Description
1.	who supply any spurious seeds
2.	who supply seeds of non-registered kind or variety
3.	Who doing the Business without registration as dealer or distributor or producer or seed processing or plant nursery