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**A CRITICAL STUDY OF LAWS REGULATING SEEDS WITH  
REFERENCE TO LIABILITY OF SPURIOUS SEED IN INDIA**- Dr Manoj Singh<sup>1</sup>**Abstract**

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the Indian economy. The majority of India's population remains engaged in farming. For a long time after independence, the Indian economy was predominantly agricultural. The agricultural sector contributed more to India's GDP than any other sector. Farming relies on quality seeds. However, accessing quality seeds is not always easy for Indian farmers. This issue is widespread across India, not confined to a specific region. Although the government is attempting to provide quality seeds, the presence of spurious seed sellers complicates this effort. The paper examines the issue of counterfeit seeds in India and analyses the reasons behind this problem. It also critically reviews various laws regulating seeds and discusses these reasons in detail. An effort has been made to find solutions to the issue and offer suggestions to address spurious seeds.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, economy, quality seeds, spurious.

**Introduction**

Agriculture is almost the backbone of the Indian Economy. Agriculture does not mean growing crops only. It includes several activities, such as horticulture, pisciculture, and floriculture. The agriculture sector also plays an important role in cross-border trade. Share of Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors in the total economy is 18.3% at current prices.<sup>2</sup>

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Contribution of Agricultural Sector in GDP, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, available at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1909213> (last visited on May 21, 2024, 11:02 AM).

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The agriculture sector also supports the industrial sector by providing raw materials. It is also a major source of revenue for state governments through land revenue, irrigation taxes, etc. For better production quality, seeds are necessary. Unfortunately, Indian farmers are facing a serious problem: spurious seeds. Although a farmer uses fertiliser, seeds, and pesticides, he still cannot achieve proper crop production. There are various reasons behind it. The government has enacted various laws to address this problem, yet it persists. In this study, an effort has been made to identify the causes of spurious seeds and ways to address this problem.

### **Importance of seeds**

Seed is the most crucial, vital and cheapest input for agricultural production. The efficacy of other agricultural inputs, such as fertilisers, pesticides, and irrigation, is largely determined by the quality of the seed.<sup>3</sup> 20%-50% of the productivity depends on the quality of the seed.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is important to promptly provide high-quality seeds to farmers. Healthy seeds give healthy crops.

### **Sources of Seed to the Farmers**

Indian farmers generally obtain seeds from three sources: self-retained seeds from earlier years, seeds from other farmers, and purchases from formal seed shops. Still, the majority of farmers use seeds from the previous crop. The Indian Seeds Programme considers three generations of seeds: breeder, foundation, and certified.<sup>5</sup> But, it is a bitter truth that good quality is almost out of the reach of the majority of farmers. Farmers face problems such as spurious seeds, low germination rates, and the unavailability of quality seeds on time.<sup>6</sup> There are various reasons behind it, such as high prices, lack of awareness, spurious seed sales, private companies' requirements, etc. However, the government is trying to curb this issue.

### **Issues relating to Spurious Seeds**

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<sup>3</sup>Seeds, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, available at: <https://agriwelfare.gov.in/en/SeedsDiv>, (last visited on May 21, 2024, 02:43 PM).

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>Shubhadeep Roy, Nakul Gupta, Neeraj Singh, Manimurugan C, P M Singh & Jagdish Singh, "Research and development issues prioritization for vegetable seeds in India: A perception study" *91 Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 34, (2021).

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Spurious means bogus; that is not what they claim. Spurious seed means a seed that is not genuine as claimed. Indian farmers are being supplied with spurious seeds illegally. National Seeds Corporation, State Seed Corporations, ICAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities, including private national and foreign private players, are active in seed supply.<sup>7</sup>

Recently, 21 quintals of illegal Bt-3 cotton seed, amounting to ₹ 42 lakh, were seized in Telangana.<sup>8</sup>In Telangana, teams of concerned officers raided a wholesaler's shop to check for spurious seeds.<sup>9</sup> Such activities are ongoing. It has become a big problem for Indian farmers. According to an official from the Telangana State Seeds Development Corporation, the government is unable to completely stop the sale of spurious seeds. He further added that this year it is under control compared to previous years.<sup>10</sup> According to the chief agricultural officer, Ludhiana, 8 out of 11 samples taken from a private seed store failed in the germination test. This proves that spurious seed was sold to the farmers.<sup>11</sup> These are only a few cases. Spurious seeds are not good for farmers because they not only hamper crop productivity but also lead to wastage of fertiliser, pesticides, and labour.

### **Legislation Related to Seeds**

Indian legislators are serious about quality seeds. They are trying to tackle this problem. They have enacted numerous Acts, for example, the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seed (Control) Order, 1983, and the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, etc. Every enactment deals with the supply of seeds. A series of enactments have been passed.

### **The Seeds Act, 1966**

This Act was enacted in 1966 to regulate the quality of certain seeds for sale and related matters.<sup>12</sup>The Seed Rules, 1968, which supplement The Seeds Act, 1966, are also framed for

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<sup>7</sup> Anamika Walia<sup>1</sup> and Arun Lalotra, "Aspects of the Indian Vegetable Seed Industry" 1 *Just Agriculture*1, (2021).

<sup>8</sup>Telangana: Spurious seeds may wash over farmers' produce this Vanakalam too, *The New Indian Express*, available at: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2021/may/23/telangana-spurious-seeds-may-wash-over-farmersproduce-this-vanakalam-too-2306356.html> ((last visited on May 21, 2024, 04:34 PM).

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Paddy 'seed scam': 8 of 11 samples from private seed store fail germination test, *The Indian Express*, available at: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/paddy-seed-scam-8-of-11-samples-from-private-seed-store-fail-germination-test-6435462/> (last visited on (May 22, 2024, 10:40 AM)

<sup>12</sup>The Indian Seed Act, 1966 (Act 54 of 1966).

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their proper implementation. Basically, this step was taken by our Parliament to increase agricultural production by regulating certain seeds. This Act covers only selected types of seeds, such as food crops, fruits, vegetables, and cotton.<sup>13</sup>

The Act aims to fix minimum standards for germination and purity, test seeds, create a certification service, grant licenses and certificates to seed dealers, and restrict the export, import, and inter-state movement of non-specified seeds.<sup>14</sup> To properly implement the Act's provisions, it establishes certain authorities, such as the Central Seed Committee, Seed Analysts, and Seed Inspectors.<sup>14</sup> The Central Government may specify minimum limits of germination and purity for the notified kind, and the mark or label for determining those limits.<sup>15</sup> The central Government will do it after consultation with the Central Seed Committee.

A person willing to do business of selling, bartering or supplying seeds otherwise must fulfil conditions given under section 7 of the Act.<sup>16</sup> Such a person may apply to the certification agency to obtain a certificate. The certification agency is authorised to grant a certificate after making an enquiry and being satisfied that the requirements of section 6 have been complied with.<sup>17</sup>

This certificate may be revoked under certain circumstances, such as obtaining it by misrepresentation of an essential fact, failure to comply with the conditions under which it was given, or contravention of the provisions of the Act.<sup>18</sup> The Act also provides for a Seed Inspector, whom the State Government shall appoint.<sup>19</sup> He is empowered to enter and inspect premises where the seeds are grown, processed, or sold. He can inspect all registers and records found in such premises.<sup>20</sup> A person can export or import notified seed only after fulfilling the conditions set out in section 6.<sup>21</sup>

Although this Act is intended to address most problems related to seeds, it also has drawbacks. Compliance with the provisions of this Act is difficult for small and simple farmers. They are not financially and technically sound. Seed inspectors are given wide

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, s.2(11).

<sup>14</sup> The Indian Seed Act, 1966 (Act 54 of 1966), s. 3,12&13.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, s6.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, s7.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, s 9.

<sup>18</sup> The Indian Seed Act, 1966 (Act 54 of 1966), s 9.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, s.13.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, s14.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, s.17.

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powers with unlimited discretion. He can enter the suspected premises even without a warrant. In addition, what guarantee is there that the seed inspector will not adopt corrupt practices? Provisions regarding punishment for violations of the act are not deterrent in nature. A first-time violation is punishable only by a fine of ₹ 500. It is too small an amount to deter. Second time infringement of the Provisions regarding punishment for the violation of the provisions of the act provides for a punishment of up to six months or a fine of up to rupees one thousand. Such a punishment cannot deter.

### **Seed (Control) Order, 1983**

Seed (Control) Order, 1983 was issued under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 because seeds notified under the Seeds Act, 1966 are covered under the Essential Commodities Act.<sup>22</sup> Every seed dealer needs to obtain a licence under this Order.<sup>23</sup> This licence shall be granted upon making an application and complying with the formalities set out in the Order.<sup>24</sup> Such a licence shall be valid for three years only and may also be renewed after payment of the prescribed fee.<sup>25</sup> This licence may be revoked if misrepresentations are made to obtain it as to an essential fact or contravention of the provisions of this order.<sup>26</sup> The seed dealer has been given the responsibility of displaying the seed stock and price lists.<sup>27</sup>

First of all, this order is applicable only when there is a business of selling seeds. It is not applicable when seeds are transferred to someone for cropping without a business purpose. The licensing system is painful for small farmers. Sixty days for sample analysis is a reasonable time. It will delay and obstruct the seed business.

### **The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983**

This Act was passed in 1983 to develop the oilseeds and vegetable oils industries under the control of the Central Government. The Act establishes the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, which has the duty to promote the development of the oilseeds and

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<sup>22</sup>K. Vanangamudi, G. Sastry, S. Kalaivani, A. Selvakumari, M. Vanangamudi, P. Srimathi Bleak, Seed Quality Enhancement: Principles and Practices, available at: [https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Seed\\_Quality\\_Enhancement\\_Principles\\_and/IwM5DwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Seed_Quality_Enhancement_Principles_and/IwM5DwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1) (last visited on May22,2024,04:09 PM).

<sup>23</sup> The Seed (Control) Order, 1983, s.3.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, s. 4.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, s.6&7.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*, s.15.

<sup>27</sup> The Seed (Control) Order, 1983, s.8.

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vegetable oils industries. The board will adopt measures to enable farmers, particularly small farmers, to participate in the development and growth of the oilseed and vegetable oil industries. The board has to follow such directions as given by the Central Government from time to time.<sup>28</sup> The Act also provides for the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, which is given the main duty of recommending and performing other miscellaneous non-regulatory functions.

### **Plants, Fruits and Seeds Order (Regulation of Import into India Order) 1989**

The Central Government passed this Order to prohibit and regulate the import of agricultural articles in India.<sup>29</sup> Due to an increase in seed imports, amendments were made in 1998, 2000, and 2001. Later, the government adopted a liberal approach in this regard and replaced it with the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003.<sup>30</sup> PFSO (1989) provides a very complex process for importing seeds. Agriculture is a seasonal industry. In such a situation, the application to import seeds and the subsequent waiting period for approval are very problematic. How much time it will take for the application to be rejected or accepted is not mentioned in the order. The permit is valid for 6 months only. It seems to be totally illogical. One more demerit of the order is that the importer has to pay twice for importing the same seeds. First, he will pay the registration charges, and thereafter the delivery, inspection, disinfection, fumigation, and disinfestation charges. It is an expensive task.

### **Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003**

This law seeks to ensure the safety of seeds during imports. This order regulates not only seeds but also includes provisions on the import of plasma, soil, germs, genetically modified organisms for research, and timber, including wooden logs. This Order permits the import of treated commodities only. It prohibits the import of commodities contaminated with alien

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<sup>28</sup>*Id.*, s. 15.

<sup>29</sup>Hari Har Ram & Rakesh Yadava, *Genetic Resources and Seed Enterprises Management and Policies*, 617 (2007).

<sup>30</sup>Sophy K. Joseph, Customary Rights of Farmers in Neoliberal India A Legal and Policy Analysis, available at [www.google.co.in/books/edition/Customary\\_Rights\\_of\\_Farmers\\_in\\_Neoliberal/Ny8DEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1](http://www.google.co.in/books/edition/Customary_Rights_of_Farmers_in_Neoliberal/Ny8DEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1) (last visited on May 23, 2024, 11:11 AM).

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species, weeds, or other contaminants.<sup>31</sup> Although this order sought a safety check, the machinery did not adopt bio-safety measures, and hence failed. This order made the import of plants, seeds, and fruits smoother without any safety checks.

### **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001**

The Act was passed to establish an effective mechanism for protecting plant varieties, including farmers and plant breeders, and to encourage the development of new plant varieties, etc. Other objectives include recognising and protecting farmers' rights regarding their contributions to conservation, improvement, and the provision of plant genetic resources for new plant varieties. This Act also seeks to protect plant breeders' rights and to invest in research and development in the public & private sectors to develop new plant varieties. This Act also aims to facilitate the growth of the seed industry in India, ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds and planting material to farmers.<sup>32</sup>

Although this Act is intended to protect farmers' rights, upon examination of its provisions, we find it has some drawbacks. Under the Act, farmers cannot sell branded seed of a variety. The act supports the formal plant breeding sector, especially the private sector. In addition, farmers are subject to harsh penalties for breaching breeders' rights.

### **National Seed Policy, 2002**

The Policy was introduced to provide intellectual property protection for new varieties, protect farmers' interests, and promote the conservation of agro-biodiversity. This policy has 10 thrust areas that promote investment in research and development. It will help ensure the availability of high-quality seeds, resulting in higher production and ultimately improving the farmer's economic condition.

### **The Seeds Bill, 2004**

The Indian seed sector has faced numerous changes after the enactment of the Seeds Act, 1966. The main object of the bill is to address the grievances and issues not covered under the

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<sup>31</sup>Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 *Lawsist, available at* <https://lawsisto.com/artcileread/NDQz/Plant-Quarantine-Regulation-of-Import-into-India-Order-2003> (last visited on May 23, 2024, 11:46 AM).

<sup>32</sup>PPVFR Act 2001: Frequently Asked Questions, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, *available at* <https://plantaauthority.gov.in/sites/default/files/finalnewfaq23.02.2021.pdf> (last visited on May 23, 2024, 01:10 PM)

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Seeds Act, 1966.<sup>33</sup>The Seeds Bill,2004, seeks to replace the Seeds Act, 1966.The Bill seeks to improve the quality of seed production and regulate seed quality for sale, import, and export.<sup>34</sup>Unfortunately, this bill could not be finalised into an Act.

This bill seeks to register all seeds for sale. The bill aims to ensure seed quality and, therefore, requires them to meet certain prescribed minimum standards. In the event of a breach, compensation can be claimed under consumer protection law. Under this Bill, some farmers' rights, such as the right to use or sell their farm seeds, have not been affected.<sup>35</sup> But, he cannot sell it under a brand name.<sup>36</sup> One good thing here is that even a farmer selling seeds has to meet the minimum standards applicable to registered seeds. The Bill allows authorised agencies to self-certify seeds. Every seed producer and dealer must be registered with the state government.<sup>37</sup>

Although this bill seems good, it also has some lacunas. Though farmers are free to register their seeds, complying with the prescribed standard voluntarily will pose a problem for them. For a simple farmer, it is not very easy. It is almost like a hurdle to them. Another drawback of the bill for compensation for underperforming seeds is that it falls under consumer law, which is an additional problem. Seed inspectors are given unrestricted power to collect samples and conduct searches and seizures of the seeds, but how can it be ensured that they will not misuse their power? Bill does not mention a ban on some genetic engineering technologies, such as 'genetic use restriction technology' and 'terminator technology which preserve intellectual property rights by requiring specific additives and making the next generation seeds sterile.'<sup>38</sup>

### **Liability of Spurious Seeds**

For the purpose of saving farmers from spurious seeds, it is necessary to fix liability in case of supplying spurious seeds. Unless liability is fixed, the supply of spurious seeds cannot be

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<sup>33</sup>Umesh Srivastava, New Seed Bill 2004 - Issues and Analysis19(2), *Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources* 142(2006).

<sup>34</sup> The Seeds Bill, 2004 - PRS Legislative Research,Parliamentary research service, available at:[https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/2004/legis1167477737\\_legislative\\_brief\\_seeds\\_bill.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/2004/legis1167477737_legislative_brief_seeds_bill.pdf) (last visited on May 23, 2024, 04:10 PM)

<sup>35</sup> Umesh Srivastava, New Seed Bill 2004 - Issues and Analysis No.19(2), *Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources* 143(2006).

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*

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restricted. For this purpose, some enactments are enacted. The following enactments are relevant in this regard.

### **Seed Act, 1966**

Section 7 of the Act deals with the regulation of the sale of seeds of notified kinds or varieties. This section provides that no person is authorised to sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute notified seeds without ensuring minimum limits of germination and purity under the Act. In addition, seed sales are regulated by a certification process. Contravention of this provision is punishable with a fine of up to five hundred dollars for the first time violation. In the case of repeated violation, it is punishable by imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to one thousand, or both.<sup>39</sup>

The representative liability concept has been adopted in the case of companies. In the case of an offence committed by a company, every person who was in charge of the company at the time of the offence is responsible. Although the act has also fixed the liability of the company, the proviso of section 21(1) nullifies it by saying that if such a person proves that the offence was committed in the absence of his knowledge. He took every due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence.

### **Seeds (Control) Order, 1983**

Under this order, it is necessary to obtain a licence if a person wants to carry on selling, exporting or importing seeds as their business. But the State Government may exempt certain dealers in certain areas by making a notification.<sup>40</sup> Every dealer is bound to display a list of prices or rates for different seeds at their place of business. The seed inspector is empowered to seize or detain any seed if they have a reasonable doubt of a violation of the provisions of the Act.<sup>41</sup> As for the company, it will be liable only as a dealer. This Act has no specific provision making the seed company liable for poor germination due to poor seed quality.

### **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001**

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<sup>39</sup> The Indian Seed Act, 1966 (Act. 54 of 1966), s. 19.

<sup>40</sup> *Id.*, s.3.

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*, s.13.

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Section 72 of the Act provides for a penalty for falsely representing a variety as registered. This punishment shall be at least 6 months' imprisonment, extendable up to 3 years, or a minimum of 1 lakh rupees, extendable up to 5 lakh rupees, or both. In case of repeating such an act, a harder punishment shall be given.<sup>42</sup>

### **The Sale of Goods Act, 1930**

This Act is focused on regulating the sale of movable goods, excluding money and actionable claims. This Act provides two types of stipulations, conditions and warranties with respect to the sale of movable goods. A condition is a term which is important for the main purpose of the contract. It is the core of the contract. The aggrieved party can repudiate the contract when a condition is breached.<sup>43</sup> Warranty is a term incidental to the contract's main purpose. In the event of a breach of warranty, the aggrieved party is entitled to claim damages, but he cannot reject the goods and treat the contract as repudiated.<sup>44</sup> There is no thumb rule regarding whether a stipulation is a condition or a warranty. A stipulation in a contract specifies whether a condition or a warranty depends on the formation of the contract. A stipulation may be a condition, even though it is labelled a warranty in the contract.<sup>45</sup>

The doctrine of caveat emptor is applicable in the case of the sale of movable goods. It means that the buyer must be prudent while purchasing goods. In the case of seeds, this doctrine will almost fail because defects in seeds cannot be traced by mere observation. Tracing a hidden defect is almost impossible. But in certain conditions, this doctrine is not applicable when the buyer conveys the purpose of purchasing goods and relies upon the seller's competence, the buyer purchased by description from a seller dealing in such goods and any implied warranty or condition attached with the trade usage regarding quality or fitness.<sup>46</sup> In the situation of breach of warranty, the buyer has two remedies: first, he may set up against the seller the breach of warranty in diminution, and second, he can claim damages.<sup>47</sup>

### **Liability Under Law of Tort**

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<sup>42</sup> The Seed (Control) Order, 1983, s.73.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*, s.12(2).

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, s.12(3).

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, s.12(4).

<sup>46</sup> The Seed (Control) Order, 1983, s.16(1), (2) and (3).

<sup>47</sup> *Id.*, s.59.

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If a farmer purchases seeds based on information on the seeds' box, but the seeds do not meet the standard of the claimed description, the farmer may have a remedy for deceit under the law of torts. If such a description is negligent but made innocently, the farmer can sue for damages under negligent misstatement, which is also covered by tort law. In *the Cann v. Wilson case*, negligent misstatement was recognised and held to be a ground for awarding damages. Getting remedies under tort law is not as easy as everyone thinks, given how much time is spent in civil litigation.

### **The Consumer Protection Act, 2019**

In case of the sale of spurious seeds, a remedy is available under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Seeds are movable property, hence covered under the definition of 'goods' of the Act.<sup>48</sup> Spurious seeds will be covered under the definition of defective goods.<sup>49</sup> In such a situation, the Act provides a three-tier redressal mechanism: the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission can entertain cases involving goods valued at up to one crore.<sup>50</sup> The State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has two types of jurisdiction: original and appellate. As far as original jurisdiction is concerned, it can entertain cases with a value of goods exceeding one crore and up to ten crores.<sup>51</sup> Appeals from the district commission lie to the State Commission.<sup>52</sup> The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission also contains two types of jurisdiction, original and appellate. As for original jurisdiction, the National Commission can hear all cases involving goods valued at more than ten crores.<sup>53</sup> Appeals from the State Commission lie to the National Commission. Appeal from the National Commission lies to the Supreme Court.<sup>54</sup> This act may be helpful in cases of spurious seeds, but litigation under it will also take time, which the farmer lacks. He will do farming-related work or run behind the court and advocates.

### **Conclusion and suggestions**

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<sup>48</sup> The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (Act 35 of 2019), s.2(21).

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, s.2(21) & (10).

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*, s.34

<sup>51</sup> The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, s.47,

<sup>52</sup> *Id.*, s.41.

<sup>53</sup> *Id.*, s.58.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.*, s.51.

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Seeds are of utmost importance. Spurious seeds are a serious problem in India. Numerous efforts have been made to avoid it, but the problem persists. It means that everything is not going well. There are various reasons behind this. The first reason is scattered law dealing with seeds. Though there are enactments dealing with seeds, they are not in harmony. Sometimes seems to be contradictory in nature. The second reason is the lack of liability for spurious seeds. The third reason is the weak enforcement of the laws regulating seeds. A law cannot give the expected result unless its enforcement mechanism is strong and deserving. The fourth reason is poverty in India. Due to poverty, Indian farmers do not dare to purchase quality seeds from authorised shops. The fifth reason is unawareness. It is a very well-known fact that mostly Indian farmers are illiterate. They have no proper knowledge regarding seeds. They use their old seeds. Besides this, they do not take action against spurious seed sellers. They cannot read the instructions and descriptions on the seed box. The sixth reason is the government's laziness. The government is not taking the initiative to educate farmers on how to identify spurious seeds and the remedies in case spurious seeds are supplied. To address the problem of spurious seeds, some measures should be adopted. An exhaustive and uniform law should be enacted, replacing pieces of enactments. A clear and certain law is required. Liability for supplying must be clearly determined. The enforcement mechanism must be tightened. Concerned authorities must be held strictly liable. It is the government's duty to help poor farmers. The government should ensure that only quality seeds are supplied to the farmers. Awareness programmes should be organised to familiarise farmers with spurious seeds, enabling them to adopt preventive measures.

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