

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding infestation of rice crop in Ambedkar Nagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Sir, rice blast is a destructive fungal disease caused by the fungus, *pyricularia oryzae*, which attacks the rice crop at all stages. Its symptoms include visible dark spots throughout the crop. Blast-infected grains lose their quality, becoming poorly filled and chaffy. The disease spreads quickly and cannot be contained easily, causing heavy economic losses to paddy farmers.

Large swathes of farmland in my constituency Ambedkar Nagar and neighbouring districts have been infected. This infestation is covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and yet the administration has not surveyed the scale of the damage. Without official findings on this fungal infection, no claims regarding crop loss can be recognised. Consequently, farmers lose both their revenue and their rights to file insurance claims under PMFBY. I strongly urge the Government to swiftly make an official assessment of the disease and process claims of affected farmers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members may please read only the approved text.