

[English]

Diseases Affecting Peppervines

554. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:
SHRIP.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the devastation caused by the diseases like quickwilt, fleabeetle etc. to peppervines in Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check those diseases; and

(c) the research and other steps taken to identify the cause and cure of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented during 1991-92. Under this scheme various steps are being taken to check the disease in pepper. These include, (i) rehabilitation of old pepper garden in Kerala which are senile and disease affected, (ii) supply of input-kits and plant protection sprayers with subsidy, (iii) supply of disease free planting material to farmers. An allocation of Rs. 3.25 crores has been made for pepper development in Kerala during 1991-92. The problem of quick-wilt disease of pepper was recently reviewed in this Ministry and an additional amount of Rs. 11.81 lakh has been sanctioned under the central sector scheme to Government of Kerala for exclusive utilisation in the quick-wilt disease affected areas in the State. Spices

Board under Ministry of Commerce has also sanctioned a scheme with an outlay of Rs. 20.00 lakh for protection of disease affected areas of pepper in Kerala.

Research on pepper diseases and pests is carried out at the National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut under the All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Spices. The cause of quick-wilt has been found to be the fungus *Phytophthora Capsici*. Improved management practices such as phytosanitation, cultivation practices and chemical control measures have been evolved to control the disease and pests. Some cultivars tolerant to disease have been identified and these are being popularised amongst farmers through development programmes.

[Translation]

Official Language Implementation Committee

555. SHRI VINAY KATTYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of various Departments of Union Government in Uttar Pradesh where the number of officers and staff is 25 or more;

(b) the number of offices out of them where Official Language Implementation Committee has been constituted and regular quarterly meeting held; and

(c) the number of offices out of them where inspection has been conducted to ensure that the official language policy is being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.