

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1196
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALTERNATIVE NON PESTICIDES
NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to encourage alternative non-pesticide approach to farming; and
- (b) if so, the biological agents including plant products available at present in the country indicating the total acreage and crops on which these are likely to be used?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging alternative non-pesticide approach to farming under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management technology. Such alternative non-pesticide approach includes cultural, mechanical and biological control measures.

(b): Important biological agents and plant products available in the country are as under:

(i) Biological Agents: Trichogramma, Chrysoperla, Lady bird beetles, Trichoderma, Nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV), and Bacillus thuringiensis.

(ii) Plant Products: Neem-based formulations registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968 viz., Azadirachtin containing 300ppm, 1500ppm and 50,000ppm concentrations.

These biocontrol agents are available in the country through 356 Biocontrol Laboratories in the private and public sectors. Precise estimates about total acreages covered under such biocontrol agents are not available, however, these are becoming popular for control of pest and diseases in rice, jowar, cotton, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane crops.