

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2492  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001  
VISITS OF SCIENTISTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH  
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a seven-member scientists team headed by director of National Research Centre and senior scientist from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research visited the Budnecrosis-affected areas in Anantapur, Bukkarayasamudram, Ramagiri and Chennethapalli mandals in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the scientists stated that it is not possible to prevent Budnecrosis at this stage but precautionary measures could prevent occurrence next year;
- (c) if so, whether the District Agriculture Department put the loss at 10 per cent of the total 7.62 lakh hectare;
- (d) if so, the other recommendations made by the scientists; and
- (e) the steps being taken in this direction?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a) A six member scientists team headed by Director of National Research Centre, Groundnut, Junagarh of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research visited the bud-necrosis affected areas in Anantapur. The areas/mandals visited were Kalyandurg region (Settlur, Brahmasamudram, Kundurpi) Bathalapalli (Bathalapalli and Sanjeevapuram), Mudigubba (Shanivaripalli and Gummakunta), Kadiri.
- (b) The Scientists observed that since the crop is likely to mature early there is no further possibility of spreading of disease, hence the crop does not require any plant protection measures at this stage. However, the late sown crop and the coming rabi crop may be protected with the recommended dose of pesticide or botanicals (Neem based preparations) irrespective of the degree of incidence in these areas.
- (c) The available information indicate that the intensity of virus was more in the district of Ananthpur where the disease has been reported to have affected 2.31 lakh hectare out of 7.84 lakh hectare area.
- (d) The other recommendations are as under :
- Suitable spraying equipments should be made available to the farmers on a community basis.
  - The crop in the adjoining areas of Ananthpur also has to be monitored for incidence of disease/vector.
  - Even though there is a recommendation of maintaining the optimum plant population by the ANGRAU, Hyderabad the reasons for low population needs to be examined further and necessary measures taken.
  - Constant monitoring of thrips on daily basis should be taken up immediately by the University research stations. It would be necessary to identify the nature and the extent of variation in the species which are acting as major vectors.
  - Relationship between the cropping systems especially the role of intercropping and the incidence of thrips and Peanut Bud Necrosis Virus (PBNV) has to be thoroughly understood because university is known to promote intercropping/other systems in that area.
  - All the released cultivars of groundnut need to be tested for resistance to thrips and PBNV. The cultivable germplasm and wild species need to be thoroughly screened.
  - Role of collateral hosts of thrips and PBNV in the endemic areas as a source of the disease can be determined. Similarly natural enemies of thrips need to be identified.
  - Weather-vector-virus-host relationship has to be developed for use in the medium term forecasting which need to be taken up on priority.
  - The degree of transmissibility with the other crop especially the ones cultivated in the area has to be established.

- Monitoring of thrips and PBNV need to be taken up on all India basis by the AICRP (Groundnut) system.
- Characterisation of virus in the endemic areas need to be taken up.
- For developing resistance varieties, the best course may be through