

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
APHID ATTACK ON CANE CROP
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several States faced aphid attack on cane crop this year;
- (b) if so, the estimated loss to farmers on this account State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to provide relief to the affected farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the role played by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH JULY, 2003.

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Large scale infestation of Woolly aphid on sugarcane crop was reported from the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Minor incidence of this pest was also reported from some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Andhra Pradesh. In Maharashtra, as per the survey report of the State Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural University, the incidence in 2002-03 was mainly recorded in sugarcane cultivation of Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Pune, Ahmednagar and Sholapur districts. Infestation of aphid on sugarcane in Karnataka was relatively more in Belgaum district followed by Bagalkot, Bidar, Bijapur and Bellari as reported by University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad. The area affected in Maharashtra and Karnataka was 1.32 lakh ha. and 0.87 lakh ha respectively.

The estimated loss to farmers in terms of yield has been between 12 to 20 per cent depending upon the intensity of infestation in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. In other States the loss was not appreciable.

(c)&(d): Following measures have already been taken to provide relief to farmers in control of White Woolly Aphid:-

(i) The States of Maharashtra and Karnataka have treated an area of 1.16 lakh ha and 0.38 lakh ha respectively with agro chemicals during 2002-03 to control the infestation.

(ii) Government of India caused the concerned State Governments, State Agricultural Universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to survey the sugarcane infested areas. The said surveys were carried out in Maharashtra and Karnataka as well as in other affected States. The States were also advised to undertake surveillance for further outbreaks of the pest so that timely control measures could be initiated.

(iii) Government of Maharashtra has supplied pesticides on 25% subsidy and sprayed/dusted an area of 1.16 lakh hectares by incurring an expenditure of Rs.76.49 lakh and also earmarked Rs.100.00 lakh for plant protection measures for sugarcane crop.

(iv) As far as the State of Karnataka is concerned, the State Government has distributed plant protection chemicals and equipments worth Rs.77.87 lakhs as subsidy to farmers to adopt control measures. Further, sugarcane crop has also been covered in the year 2002-03 under the crop insurance scheme and 52373 farmers have been covered under this scheme in the State.

(v) The Government of India has requested the State Governments to include the proposal, as a new intervention, in their work plans within the ceiling of the funds already allocated to them under Macro Management Scheme.

(vi) A Central Team under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.R. Hazra, Agriculture Commissioner was deputed to Maharashtra and Karnataka from 3-5th March, 2003 and the recommendations of the Team have been communicated to all States/UTs affected by the pest for necessary action including long term and short term strategy to deal with this pest.

(e): There are 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in the country under the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage. These centres conduct pest surveillance of various crops with a view to forewarn farmers. These centres also coordinate with the concerned State Governments in respect of propagation and implementation of Integrated Pest Management. They also conduct IPM training by organizing Farmers Field Schools. Farmers as well as extension functionaries of the State Governments are trained in these Farmers Field Schools. These centres also undertake production of bio-control agents and their distribution to farmers in Farmers Field Schools. The Central Integrated Pest Management Centres located at Bangalore and Nagpur are presently conducting IPM demonstration programmes with a view to increase farmers awareness about IPM practices and their application in sugarcane crop in Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively.