

*[Translation]***Loss to Crops Due to Locust**

4108. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
 SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
 SHRI O.P. JINDAL :
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the locust and worms have caused heavy loss to the standing crops of the farmers in Delhi and its surrounding areas of the Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of loss caused to the standing crops;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to check the attack of locust worms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have provided any compensation to the farmers for the loss caused to the crops; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) There is no incidence of locust attack on the crops in Delhi and its surrounding areas of Uttar Pradesh. However, recently 3119 ha. area under fodder crops has been attacked by grasshopper in Meerut Division of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Department of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh has undertaken plant protection measures over the grasshopper affected areas of Meerut Division. These measures were preceded by an awareness campaign launched by the State Government to educate the farmers about effective remedial measures. Suitable steps had also been taken to ensure adequate availability of pesticides.

(e) and (f) In view of reply to part (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

*[English]***Demand of Agricultural Produce**

4109. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is great demand of the Indian Agricultural Produce/fruits;

(b) if so, the details thereof item-wise and commodities exported during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to produce and export more such products; and

(d) the details of incentives the Government propose to give to farmers for the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The commodities namely basmati rice, spices, horticulture produce, vegetables and fruits have shown considerable increase in exports. The details may kindly be seen in the enclosed statement.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of Fruits a Centrally sponsored scheme on integrated development of tropical, arid zone and temperate fruits is being implemented.

Under this scheme incentives are provided for small nurseries, tissue culture units, training of farmers and area expansion.

(d) To boost exports the simplification of inspection procedures, removal of quantity restrictions on some items, concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits under the scheme of 100% export oriented units/export processing zones to agricultural sector, air freight subsidy on selected floricultural and fresh vegetables to specified destinations, provision of cold stores at airports, financial assistance to eligible exporters under various plan schemes etc. are the important steps taken by Government. In addition, participation in international trade fairs, arranging buyers-sellers meetings, organizing market development campaigns, assisting in product development and improving packaging and quality certification are the other steps taken by the Government to boost the exports.

Further the National Horticulture Board Provides assistance for marketing, handling, processing infrastructure facilities for domestic and export markets.