

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2568
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
LOSS TO COFFEE CROPS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coffee board has reported loss of arabica crop in almost all States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total crop lost till date since November 2005; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to help the coffee growers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) A total crop loss of 7050 Mts in arabica coffee has been estimated by the Board mainly in Karnataka and to some extent in Tamilnadu during the year 2005-06. The main reason for the loss is due to the flare up of White Stem Borer (WSB) infestation and consequent removal of infested plants. High incidence of WSB in the coffee growing areas has occurred mainly due to the hostile weather conditions in the last three years like inadequate rainfall prolonged drought period, higher temperature range etc, which is conducive for proliferation of WSB.

(d) To reduce the pest inoculums in the arabica plantations, Coffee Board launched the `Catch and Kill Programme` during 2004-05 under which growers were provided incentives for mechanically collecting grubs and adults. This helped in considerable reduction in the pest population. Further, such planters were also provided with free of cost seedlings to replace the borer affected plants. A Multi Country Project is in operation to study the pest bio-cycle further and to find out feasible methods to control it. In addition to this National level Multi Institutional collaborative studies were also initiated by associating Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) and Horticultural Institutes in the country to develop a viable eco-friendly method to combat the pest. Board has also intensified its extension programmes to combat the WSB problem on war footing with intensive campaigns on measures for control of WSB, testing quality of pesticides available in the market, use of pheromone traps technology, supply of coffee seedlings to replace WSB affected and removed plants and supply of desirable shade tree saplings to build up optimum shade.