

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:808
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agro-produce worth Rs.90,000 crore have lost due to pest, weeds and disease last year as indicated by Chairman of the Agro Chemical Promotion Group;
- (b) if so, the details of the other issues suggested by the Chairman to boost agriculture and create awareness about the correct use of agro-chemicals; and
- (c) if so, the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

- (a): It has been estimated that crop losses due to pests including insect pests, diseases, rodents and weeds range between 10 to 30% every year depending on climatic and environmental conditions.
- (b): The Agro Chemicals Promotion Group have, inter alia, suggested that training be imparted to farmers in appropriate use of pesticides, regulatory processes be strengthened to address the problem of spurious pesticides, taxes on pesticides and pesticides sector be reduced, more pesticides be registered to give farmers more choices and benefit of latest technology, product stewardship be encouraged in the pesticides sector, enhanced use of pesticide be promoted, etc.
- (c): Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management Centres across the country to, inter-alia, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools. The State Governments have, from time to time, been advised of the need to strictly enforce the provisions of the Insecticides Act to address the problem of spurious pesticides. The Registration Committee has introduced simplified procedures for the registration of pesticides after satisfying themselves of their safety and efficacy.