

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5308

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007

USE OF BIO- CONTROL AGENTS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT

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

(a) whether the use of bio-control agents in controlling crop pests have emerged as an important eco safe alternative for the management of pests and diseases in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether due to lack of awareness farmers are still to adopt it in a major way:

(c) whether any special publicity scheme for farmers has been launched by Government for adopting bio-control agents for pest management; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Bio-control agents are emerging as an important component of Integrated Pest Management which is the cardinal Principle of Pest Control. Though they are eco-safe products, can not be a complete alternative to chemical pesticides.

(c) & (d): To promote biological control as an important component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Government of India is implementing a Scheme `Strengthening & Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India` since 1991-92. Under this, 31 Central IPM Centres are functioning with the objectives of pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in IPM. The use of bio-control agents is promoted through awareness creation among farmers/State extension functionaries by organizing series of Farmers Field Schools. Since 1994-95 to 2005-06, CIPMCs have produced and released 25385 millions of bio- control agents in the farmers` fields covering an area of 77.88 lakh hectares.

For promotion of biological control, Government of India is providing Grants-in-aid to States/UTs/NGOs for setting up of production facilities of biological control agents.