

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3913

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008

HARMFUL INSECTS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to quarantine harmful insects coming with imported agricultural consumer items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in a recent meeting of SAARC countries on agriculture, it has been agreed to develop surveillance and early warning system for trans-boundary pests in the wake of climatic change;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details regarding research programmes to develop more effective pesticides for pesticide resistant pathogen?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The import of plants and plant material is regulated under the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914 and the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, keeping in view the agricultural bio-security of the country. Under this Order it has been made mandatory to conduct a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) of each commodity or part thereof and plant quarantine testing before allowing its import into the country.

(c) & (d): In a recent meeting of SAARC countries on agriculture, agreement to develop surveillance and early warning system for trans-bound pests in the wake of climatic change was considered.

(e): Research is undertaken to study the extent of resistance development by various pests to the pesticides. However, development of new pesticides is done by the pesticide industry. Evaluation of new pesticide molecules that are brought out by the pesticide industry are subjected to evaluation against all target pests and they are deployed in the event of any suspected resistance to any recommended pesticide.