

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:73
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
DECLINE IN RICE PRODUCTION
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports suggesting that rice production in the country is likely to decline by 40% in the next three years due to rice infestation by weeds; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the farmers and farm produce from such impending peril?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): No such reports are available with Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. However, the average crop losses due to various types of weeds has been estimated to be around 15-20% of the crop production depending on crops, type of weed flora, their intensity and agro-climatic conditions.

(b): Steps taken by the Government to protect farmers from infestation by weeds includes constitution of a Registration Committee under Section 5 of Insecticides Act 1968 to register safe efficacious pesticides including herbicides, establishment of Directorate of Weed Science Research at Jabalpur to undertake basic and applied research for developing strategies for efficient Weed Management, Implementation of All-India Coordinated Research Project on Weed Control in different State Agricultural Universities. Popularization of proper weed control measures among the farmers through trainings, farm fairs and large scale field demonstrations etc.