

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:251
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
FOODGRAIN DISEASES
Lal Shri Kirodi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some portion of the foodgrains produced in the country perished due to various diseases and insects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has put any proposal before the SAARC countries to create a combined crop security cover; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the members of SAARC countries in this regard?

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) & (b): Yes, Madam. While scientific estimates of crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases in the country are not available as the damage depends on various factors including weather conditions, crop cultural practices and plant protection practices, the crop losses due to insect pests, diseases and weeds in the country are assessed to range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack.
- (c): The Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection strategy under the scheme 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach'. The Government also provides assistance for suitable plant protection intervention through schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Food Security Mission, etc.
- (d): No, Madam.
- (e): Does not arise.