

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5152
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010
PEST CONTROL FOR OPIUM CROPS
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps being taken to educate opium farmers for various types of pest control;
- (b) the amount of funds earmarked for the year 2010-11 to address the issue of various diseases and pest control in opium crops;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to increase subsidy on premium of crop insurance for the cultivation of poppy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a): During the settlement operation carried out by the Central Bureau of Narcotics for issue of licences to opium cultivators, Agricultural scientists are called to educate the cultivators on all aspects of opium cultivation including scientific methods of farming, use of fertilizers seed varieties and use of pesticides for pest control. Pamphlets incorporating such details as provided by the Agricultural scientists are also circulated to all cultivators.
- (b): No specific funds are earmarked in the Central Budget to address the issue of various diseases and pest control in opium crops.
- (c), (d) and (e): Presently, there is no Govt. of India supported insurance scheme for poppy crop, as such the question of increasing the subsidy on its premium does not arise. Insurance to poppy crop was provided by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., New Delhi during the crop years 2005-06 to 2007-08. The Insurance Scheme was optional on the demand of the cultivators and their representatives. Since very small number of cultivators were willing to insure their poppy crop and the claim ratio was very high, this insurance company decided not to continue with the insurance from the crop year 2008-09 onwards.