

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3223
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
PEST CONTROL
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no alternative to pesticides and genetically modified seeds for pest control in brinjal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether research has been done on IPM/non-chemical IPM on brinjal for pest control;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture has proposed to bring about regulatory changes in Indian agriculture;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the M.S. Swaminathan led Task Force on agri- biotechnology has recommended not to opt for herbicide tolerant crops in view of the employment generation; and
- (h) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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): Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as main plant protection strategy in the overall crop production programme. IPM is an eco-friendly approach which encompasses cultural, mechanical, biological and need based chemical control measures.

(c) & (d): The National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has published book 'Explored Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) in Pest Management' on use of indigenous methods of pest control. 125 ITKs have been explored from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Uttaranchal regions. Few promising ITKs e.g. cow urine have been selected for laboratory as well as field for vegetable crops. The patent has also been filed in this regard.

The Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage has brought out IPM package of practices for 77 crops, including brinjal.

Use of bio-pesticides is encouraged through Farmers' Field Schools. The bio-control units/laboratories have also been set up to popularize the use of bio-control agents.

(e) & (f): The objectives of the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative were to re-energize India- US partnership by promoting teaching, research, service and commercial linkages to address contemporary challenges. No regulatory change in Indian agriculture was envisaged in this initiative.

(g) & (h): The Task Force on application of agricultural biotechnology constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan recommended that such areas of biotechnological applications, which can reduce employment and impinge on the livelihood of rural families, should be avoided. Breeding for herbicide tolerance, for example, may have low priority on this account in several parts of India where there are a large number of landless labour families. The priorities will have to be determined both on the basis of agro-climatic and socio-economic factors, region by region.