

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011  
PROTECTION FROM CROP DISEASES  
Tirkey Shri Manohar

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are occurrences of stem rust fungal disease in wheat in different parts of the world including Africa;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the possibility of its spread in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): Wheat varieties grown in India are resistant to most of the Indian races of stem rust. Several varieties are also resistant to the new race (Ug99) of stem rust as per testing carried out in Kenya and Ethiopia. UG99 stem rust has not yet been spotted in India as per the survey and crop health monitoring reports.

(d): Following steps have been taken:

1. Extensive survey are in operation for detection of Ug99 in India.
2. Indian wheat varieties have been evaluated at Kenya and Ethiopia against stem rust race Ug99 and around 30 of those varieties have been found to carry resistance to this disease.
3. Ug99 resistant genetic stocks are being used in wheat breeding programme to develop disease resistant varieties.