

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3044  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
PADDY DISEASES  
Patel Shri Devji

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

(a) whether the production of paddy crops has been adversely affected/declined in several parts of the country due to fungus diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for prevention of diseases caused by Rhizoctonia fungus in paddy crops?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As informed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, diseases in general damage crops resulting in a yield loss of about 10-30% as evidenced by multi-locational experiments carried out across the country. Among the fungal diseases, blast, brown spot, sheath blight, sheath rot, false smut and bakanae cause significant yield losses.

(c): Following steps are being taken by Government for the prevention of disease caused by Rhizotonia fungus in paddy crops:-

1. Deep ploughing in summers and burning of stubbles.
2. Selection of resistant varieties of seeds.
3. Seed Treatment with chemical fungicides and bio-pesticides as recommended by the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).
4. Adopt optimum spacing.
5. Avoid excess doses of fertilizers.
6. Eliminate weed hosts.
7. Avoid flow of Irrigation water from infected fields to healthy fields.
8. Foliar spray of chemical fungicides as recommended by SAUs.