

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7390
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT
Shantha J.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Pest Control Management in the agriculture sector of the country;
- (b) the measures taken to encourage the use of indigenous methods of pest control; and
- (c) the steps being taken to create awareness regarding the use of bio- pesticides for pest control?

Answer

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

(a): Following steps have been taken to strengthen Pest Control Management in agriculture sector of the country:-

1. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co- operation (DAC) is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" (SMPMA) since 1991- 92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme.
2. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centers in 28 States and one UT.
3. The mandate of these Centers is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/ bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture / Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) in farmers' fields. Basic aim of FFS is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decision in pest management operation. In FFSs the farmers are also trained about the judicious use of pesticides on their crops so that the crop can be grown with minimum use of pesticides.
4. Total 351 bio-control laboratories have been established so far which are functioning in India for production of Bio-control agents & bio-pesticides. These labs have been set up by different agencies viz. Central Government, State Government, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Agriculture Universities, Department of Bio-technology, NGOs & private entrepreneurs.
5. Under SMPMA, Grants-in-aid of Rs. 1772 lakh to the states & Rs.64.16 lakh to NGOs has been granted so far for setting up of bio-control laboratories. Besides this, Rs. 354 lakh has been granted for rodent pest management in North Eastern States so far.

(b): Various measures have been taken to encourage the use of indigenous methods of pest control which are as follows:-

- a. Distribution of neem seeds to farmers for transplanting them in their vicinity or around their fields for making their use as botanical pesticide.
- b. Use of cow urine preparation as pesticide.
- c. Wormiculture is being professed to improve the soil health to reduce the pest population.
- d. Besides these, other local proven technologies /Indigenous Technical Knowhow (ITK) are also being encouraged amongst the farming community.

(c): Under the Human Resource Development programmes, the Farmers Field Schools, Season Long / Long Duration Training Programmes and Short Duration Training Programmes are being organized in which awareness regarding use of Bio-pesticides in pest control is being advocated among the farmers, State Extension Officers & NGOs.