

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1793

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

COTTON LEAF CURL VIRUS

Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cotton crop in the north belt of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan is under serious threat from cotton leaf curl virus disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by the Government to check this disease and to develop resistant varieties and eradication of weed hosts carrying the virus?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) was reported initially in 1993 in Sriganganagar in Rajasthan from where it further spread to other cotton growing region of North India i.e. Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Significant damage was reported during 1997 in the areas of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana states due to infection of CLCV in India.

Cotton Leaf Curl Virus is disseminated through a vector known as White fly (*Bemecia Tabaci*) which is a pest of many other crops like vegetables (Brinjal, Tomato, Okra etc), flowers and fruits (Citrus) which are grown in abundance in cotton growing areas of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, that increase threat of CLCV in cotton crop.

(c): Following steps have been taken by the Government to check this disease:

1. The intensity of Leaf Curl Virus and the population of white fly is monitored through regular pest surveillance.
2. State Government authorities and farmers have been advised for eradication/destruction of weeds harbouring Leaf Curl virus and white fly.
3. Leaf Curl Virus tolerant and resistant varieties have been developed by the State Agriculture Universities/ ICAR.
4. Management of White fly population through conventional methods like cultural methods, mechanical methods, trapping through yellow trap, and use of chemical and bio-pesticides like neem products. Conservation of natural enemies of white fly by delaying the chemical pesticide use, using the botanicals and bio pesticides instead of chemical pesticides, and adoption of clean cultivation.