

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:350

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

USE OF PESTICIDES

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to large scale pest attack on crops in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated loss on account of pests;
- (c) whether spraying of pesticides and use of fertilisers have reduced the incidents of pest attack and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has embarked upon awareness campaign to educate farmers on judicious and safe use of pesticides and if so, the success achieved as a result of this campaign; and
- (e) whether the Government is also developing bio-fertilisers and alternative ways to get rid of pests in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(a) & (b) No large scale pest attack has appeared to cause economic loss in recent past due to timely interventions made by the State Governments concerned and Government of India by way of conducting regular pest monitoring and surveillance programme, besides need based control measures as and when required. During Kharif 2012, insect-pest/disease situation remained normal, below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) in general. However, Low to Moderate incidence of cotton white fly(pest) and subsequent disease of leaf curl virus was reported in Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana states. Severe incidence of pest and the disease was reported sporadically in few localities of Faridkot, Moga, Muktsar and Firozpur districts of Punjab state. The incidence of cotton leaf curl virus was reported varying from traces in few cotton fields of district Rohtak, Hissar and Fatehabad of Haryana state.

The incidence of sudden wilt/parawilt (a physiological disorder in water logged conditions only) was reported upto low level in few cotton fields of Hissar district of Haryana state.

Soybean crop of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh and few localities of Rajasthan was reported to be infested with Red hairy caterpillar, Girdle beetle and Tobacco Caterpillar with the infestation ranging from low to moderate level.

Low to moderate incidence of Rice stem borer & Rice blast was reported in few localities of Chhatisgarh and of Sheath blight and bacterial leaf blight in Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana states in rice crop.

Low to moderate incidence of Grasshopper in Rajasthan was also reported on maize crop. Cluster bean crop was found to be infected with Alternaria blight in few areas of Rajasthan. Moderate to severe incidence of whitefly on Sugarcane crop was reported in some localities of South Gujarat.

(c) Only need based spraying of pesticides (bio-pesticides/chemical) are recommended to reduce the incidence of pest attacks. Pesticides are recommended as per the package of practices of the particular crop.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. To prevent/manage insect pests/diseases attack as well as to increase crop productivity Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation (DAC) is implementing a scheme "Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM, Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT. They are advocating and developing alternative methods to manage pests viz. cultural methods, mechanical methods, physical methods, biological methods including Biopesticides and biocontrol agents and wherever situation warrants the use of need based and judicious safe chemical methods are taken up. Further, Bio fertilizers do not control pests.