

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1169

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013

WASTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES DUE TO DISEASES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many kinds of fruits and Vegetables got destroyed because of spread of various diseases and consequently the farmer has to suffer losses to the tune of several crore of rupees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether research has been conducted to check the spread of the diseases;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to control/check such diseases?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No reports have been received that fruits and vegetables got destroyed because of spread of various diseases and consequently the farmer has to suffer losses to the tune of several crore of rupees.

(e): The Government is popularizing the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a Central Sector Scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" which includes cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest control and emphasizes safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Implementation of IPM programme helps in assisting State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture in pest and disease monitoring and issuing timely warning to farmers, enabling them to plan in advance actions required for pest management.

Human Resource Development programme envisages capacity building and decisions making ability of extension functionaries, personnel from NGOs, KVKs, State Agricultural Universities, pesticide dealers etc. Farmers are empowered with knowledge and skills through Farmers' Field Schools which enable them to grow healthy crops with reduced cost on Pest Management.

So far, upto the year 2011-12 the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S), an attached organization of Ministry of Agriculture, has organized 13,991 Nos. of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) wherein 57,962 Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and 4,20,720 farmers in different crops have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops. Over an area of 232.68 lakh ha. has been covered under pest monitoring and 43,543 million bio-control agents have been released for control of different pests and diseases in the States. So far total 1,871 master trainers have been trained in different crop like Rice, Cotton, Vegetable, Groundnut, Mustard, Soyabean, Gram/tur, Chillies & sugarcane. Also IPM package of practices for pest/diseases management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs.

At present there are 351 bio-control laboratories functioning in India for production of Bio-control agents & bio-pesticides. These labs have been set up by different agencies viz. Central Government, State Govt., ICAR, SAU's DBT, NGO's & Private entrepreneurs. Grant in aid of Rs. 1,772 lakh have been given to States and Rs.64,15,503/- to the NGO's has been granted for setting up of bio-control laboratories in different states & UTs.

Due to gregarious bamboo flowering, rodent population was on increase in North Eastern Region. Rodent surveys were conducted by team of experts of DPPQ&S along with officials of State Agriculture Department of north-eastern States. State Governments were advised from, time to time, to adopt immediate rodent management measures to avoid crop loss.