

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1299
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
WASTAGE OF FOODGRAINS
Abdulrahman Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantity of foodgrains produced in the country is either damaged or got perished due to diseases and pests infestation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government provides any assistance to farmers to take preventive steps in order to protect their produce;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether various schemes or projects have been launched by the Government to arrest the wastage of foodgrains due to diseases and pests infestation; and
- (f) if so, the details and the achievements thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): While scientific estimates of crop losses due to pests, weeds and diseases in the country are not available as the damage depends on various factors including weather conditions, crop cultural practices and plant protection practices, the crop losses due to insect pests, diseases and weeds in the country are assessed to range between 10 to 30 per cent annually, depending on severity of pest attack. Working Subgroup on Plant Protection, Planning Commission in 2001 has assessed that on an average 18% of the crop yield is lost due to pests.

(c) to (f): 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" since 1991-92 by adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM Programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory.

Pest management strategies including cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical control as the last resort are being popularized under IPM scheme among the farming community.

Under the human resource development(HRD) programme of IPM, Farmers Field Schools, long and short duration training programmes are being organised to empower farmers and State extension functionaries about IPM.

Pest and disease surveillance and monitoring programmes are undertaken to forewarn likely pest and disease build up in different crops.

Farmers are being motivated to adopt seed treatment as a preventive measure for pest management in different crops.