

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4806
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT CENTRES
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Integrated Pest Management Centres have been established in the various States to impart training and to spread awareness amongst farmers for discretionary use of fertilisers/pesticides in agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the functions being performed by these centres?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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.

Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT. (list Annexed). Their functions are :-

- (i) Monitoring of pests and diseases for forewarning the States to facilitate undertaking timely control measures in endemic areas.
- (ii) Human Resource Development (HRD) for promoting IPM by imparting field oriented training to extension functionaries and farmers through Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs).
- (iii) Promotion of conservation of biocontrol agents for natural suppression of insect pests.
- (iv) Production and release of biocontrol agents for the control of insect pests and diseases in farmers fields.
- (v) Popularization of IPM approach in the States by organizing demonstrations and 'Kisan Melas', distribution of literature in regional languages, etc.

Major emphasis is given on judicious use of chemical pesticide as a last resort and safety in use of pesticides, alternate tools for pest management viz; cultural, physical, mechanical methods of pest control as well as use of biopesticides and biocontrol agents, effects of pesticides on natural enemies of pests, do's and don'ts of pesticide use including proper application equipment and the technique. FFSs are run by trained personnel to train 30 farmers and 5 Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) for 14 weeks. At the end of training, Kisan Mela is organized at the FFS site to popularize the IPM approach among neighbouring farmers.

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.

To encourage use of biological agents including plant products and to meet the farmers requirement of these products against crop pests of agricultural/horticultural crops, various biological control agents are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Besides "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" there are other schemes of the Government like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Extension Programme under which farmers are being imparted awareness programmes.