

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5584  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013  
BIO CONTROL AGENTS AS PESTICIDES  
Ray Shri Saugata

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

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in research for developing bio-control agents as pesticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the awareness of this bio-control agents to farmers; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the bio-control agents are likely to benefit the farmers?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken up research for developing bio-control agents for suppressing crop pests.

(b) The natural enemies of crop pests (insects, mites, nematodes, diseases) are identified and methods for their mass-production are developed. These natural enemies are used for distribution in crop fields at the time of invasion of the designated pest species in crops. These natural enemies would destroy these noxious pests by living on them.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The farmers are advised through onfarm farmer participatory demonstrations, awareness programmes in Kisan mela, Farmers' Meet, exhibitions, training programs and through audio and visual media, print media etc.

The eco-friendly methods using biological control of crop pests have reduced the use of synthetic chemical pesticides in crops, increasing better health of farms and farmers.