

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2849  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013  
PESTS AND DISEASES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS  
Adhi Sankar Shri

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

- (a) whether the inflow of pests and diseases of plants and animals into the country through imports is one of the biggest threats to bio-diversity and is likely to lead to huge economic losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the emergence and spread of transboundary diseases such as avian influenza, Ug-99, wheat stem rust fungus recently pose threats to animals, plants and human beings;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has set up an autonomous body to tackle the risk to farmers from alien pests and weeds; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A number of plant, animal and marine diseases and pests have been introduced into India through import of seeds, planting material, livestock and livestock products in the past. Many of them, including weeds such as Parthenium, Phalaris minor and Lantana camara, have got established in the country and continue to cause enormous economic losses.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. But so far the Wheat rust (Ug-99) is not reported to occur in India.
- (e): No, Madam.
- (f): Does not arise.