

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
LOSSES DUE TO WEEDS
Semmalai Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether weeds causes huge loss to the agriculture produce including rice in the country;
- (b) if so, the estimation of the loss and the areas and crops affected;
- (c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;
- (d) whether a large scale import of foodgrains pose a threat of entry of an alien invasive weed seeds into the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken for weed surveillance and eradication in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The average crop losses due to various types of weeds has been estimated to be around 15-20% of the crop production depending upon crops and agro-climatic conditions.

(c): For controlling weeds in crops, remedial measures such as preventive measures (sowing of clean and weed free seeds, keeping all the farm machineries clean, use of quarantine measures, removal weeds in irrigation channels and other non-crop land etc. use of mechanical weeding tools, adoption of suitable cropping systems, crop cultivars, intercropping etc. have been suggested to farmers through literature, kisan melas, demonstrations, mass media.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. It is reported that through import of foodgrains in the previous decades alien invasive weed species like Phalaris minor and Parthenium hysterophorus have got established in the country posing a threat to the country's biodiversity and causing adverse impact on crop yield.

(f): The Government is implementing a National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NWS) project through Directorate of Weed Surveillance and Research, Jabalpur to contain the weeds introduced in the country. To make people aware of the ill effect of the weeds and its management, Parthenium Awareness Week is observed during 6-12 September every year.