

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1971
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009
PARTHENIUM GRASS
Saroj Shri Tufani;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the growth of Parthenium/Congress Grass has been reported in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether such growth is injurious to livestock and humans;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken for eradication of such weeds;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the funds made available for this purpose and progress made in this regard?

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. A weed known as Parthenium or Congress Grass found all over the country is believed to have been introduced through import of wheat during 1950s.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. It may cause allergy, skin diseases and asthma in humans. It reduces the availability of fodder for livestock in pastures and is toxic when ingested.
- (e) to (g): The Government have taken the following measures for eradication of such weeds:-
 - (i) Uprooting the plants before flowering and burning the uprooted plants or using them for compost making.
 - (ii) Application of prescribed herbicides in non-cropped situations.
 - (iii) Application of recommended pesticides at 30-35 days after sowing in crops like wheat, sugarcane, maize, sorghum etc.
 - (iv) Distribution of the insect *Zygogramma bicolorata* against Parthenium, especially in non-cropped areas.
 - (v) To make people aware of the ill effects of Parthenium and its management, Parthenium Awareness Week is observed during 6-12 September every year.