

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1188
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
PEST ATTACK ON CROPS
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment on the loss of crops due to pest attacks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to avert such losses?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): There are no detailed and scientific estimates of crop losses which can be ascribed solely to attacks by pests. However, it is estimated that 10-30% of crops production is lost on account of insect pests, diseases and weeds.

(c): Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" which aims to minimize crop loss due to pest attack in an ecological friendly manner. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 States and one UT. Following activities are carried out under the scheme;

Popularization of IPM approach among farming community.

Conducting regular pest surveillance and monitoring to assess pest/ disease situation.

Rearing biological control agents for their use in the fields against enemy pests.

Conservation of naturally occurring bio-control agents.

Promotion of Bio-pesticides and neem based pesticides as alternative to chemical pesticides.

To play a catalytic role in spread of innovative IPM skills to extension workers and farmers equally to resource-poor and resource-rich states.

Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to master trainers, extension workers and farmers through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs).

Organization of FFSs through KVKs/SAUs/ ICAR institutes to develop the sufficient human resource.

Under the HRD programme, organization of short duration courses of two days and five days for pesticides dealers/ NGOs/ Graduates/Post-graduates/Pvt. Entrepreneurs and progressive farmers.

Organization of Season Long Training (SLT) programmes on major agricultural/ Horticultural crops for extension workers of the States Govts.

The Government also provides assistance for suitable plant protection intervention through schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission etc.