

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:573
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
BIO-PESTICIDES/ INSECTICIDES
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Department has undertaken any major research programme to develop bio- pesticides/insecticides in the country and if so, the details thereof including the units set up for production of bio-pesticides/insecticides in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes transfer of technology to industries for augmenting them with the production of bio-pesticides/insecticides in the country and if so, the details thereof: and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 573 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/05/2015 REGARDING "BIO-PESTICIDES/INSECTICIDES"

(a) The Department of Biotechnology had supported several R&D projects and a Mission Mode Programme to develop biopesticides and bio-insecticides as a viable alternative to toxic chemical pesticides. 19 production-cum-demonstration units and 2 repository centres in 16 states viz. Andaman Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand were set up. Several cost effective, sustainable and eco-friendly modules/packages of practices were developed for economically important crops at various centres in 12 states viz. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand. Further, mass multiplication of biocontrol agents has covered 14 districts in eight North-East states through NER programme of this Department.

(b) & (c) Efforts have been made to facilitate safety assessment and technology transfer of public sector findings to private industries. Following two decades of basic research support, commercialization of laboratory results through validation, safety testing and mass demonstration of formulations are being focused. Schemes to support technology transfer are augmented through Public Private Partnership as well as involving State Governments. The upstream R&D is no more being supported by this Department. Other government agencies like Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) are engaged in such activities. Use of bio-agents has become quite popular among farming community and ICAR and DAC played a pivotal role in this direction.