

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:969
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
ASSISTANCE TO COFFEE INDUSTRY
Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coffee industry in the country has been affected by the pest menace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to assist and protect the coffee industry in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): Stem borer pest is amongst the major constraints affecting cultivation of Arabica variety of coffee. The combined effects of higher temperatures, reduction of shade for increasing the yield of pepper grown as intercrop and lack of timely control measures by the growers have led to increase in the incidence of the pest.

About 3200 hectares of productive area in Karnataka state are reported to have been affected by stem borer due to long dry spell from Nov.2013 to May 2014 and resultant high day temperatures. The incidence was lower in other major Arabica coffee producing areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Non- Traditional Areas.

(b)&(c): Several steps have been initiated to address the problem of pest in coffee cultivation. The government has approved a two year Action Plan (2014-15 & 2015-16) for combating the stem borer in affected areas. This includes, inter alia, support for gap filling, raising coffee seedlings by growers SHGs/ collectives, supply of pheromone traps at subsidized rates, and a Mission Mode approach for enhanced education, training and demonstration on stem borer control measures.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has included coffee White Stem Borer(WSB) as one of the components in its mega project viz., Consortium Research Programme on Insect borers' for implementation during Twelfth Five year Plan. The Coffee Board has supported a collaborative research project viz., 'Studies on Female Pheromone plant Kairomone on coffee WSB' with a view to improve the efficiency of trapping of adult beetles.

Department of Bio-technology is implementing a project through the Central Coffee Research Institute, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and a private laboratory on bio-technological approaches to identify potential Bt toxins against coffee stem borer.