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Title: Need to include crop loss due to spurious seed varieties and damage caused by wild animals in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I would like to request the Government to cover the crop loss due to spurious seed varieties and damage by wild animals under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The scheme scores well over the previous schemes as the premium has been kept low, provides full coverage of insurance and covers post harvest losses as well. But the significant drawback of the scheme is that it does not provide any coverage against crop losses as a result of spurious seed varieties and crop damage by wild animals. We have witnessed the whitefly pest attack which got exacerbated because of inferior quality of seeds taking a heavy toll on the cotton crop in Northern India particularly in Haryana and Punjab last year. Therefore, I request the government to make necessary amendments in the newly introduced crop insurance scheme so as to ensure justifiable insurance for the crop losses due to wild animals and spurious seed varieties.