

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2519  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019

**GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION**

2519. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of grasshoppers have come into our country from the border areas of Pakistan which may destroy the crops of farmers;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deal with the problem of grasshoppers; and
- (c) the places where offices related to warning about grasshoppers have been set up in Rajasthan along with the details of the status of the sanctioned, working and vacant posts lying in these offices?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): There is an incursion of Desert locust (belongs to the category of grasshoppers) in low to medium density since 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 onwards, from the border areas of Pakistan mainly in the Jaisalmer district of the Rajasthan State. Its presence has also been noticed in the Barmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan and Banaskantha district of Gujarat.

Till date, there is no evidence of crop damages by desert locust. Neither the desert locust control teams nor any State agriculture functionaries have reported any damage to the crops.

- (b): The following steps have been taken to deal with the problem of Desert locust:
- i. Up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019, a total of 8041 hectares have been treated against the said infestation by spraying insecticide (Jaisalmer - 7354 hectares, Barmer - 447 hectares, Jalore - 100 hectares and Banaskantha - 140 hectares).
  - ii. The staff of locust warning organization / circle offices are undertaking regular surveys and control operations to check desert locust.

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- iii. An Additional 40 nos. of technical officers/officials of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage have been deployed in the various circle office for assistance in control and survey works. In addition, Senior officers of the Department are camping in the infested area and supervising control operations.
  - iv. Further, the State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan has posted their 77 nos. of staff including Agriculture Supervisor, Agriculture officers & Assistant Agriculture Officers to various offices in the Jaisalmer districts for assistance in locust control works. The State Government has constituted various teams comprising senior officers for regular assessment and monitoring of locust situation.
  - v. Various awareness programs have been organized by the various circle offices for state agriculture officers and farmers.
  - vi. Regular Liaison is being maintained with the Forest Department, Border Security Force, State Agriculture Department, District administration and representatives of Gram Sabha/Panchayat.
- (c): Under the Locust Control & Research, the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has established 10 Locust Circle Offices at Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Suratgarh, Churu, Nagaur, Phalodi, Jalore in Rajasthan and Palanpur & Bhuj in Gujarat covering almost all the desert areas. In addition, Locust Warning Organization has been established at Jodhpur which acts as head quarter of the circle offices. Furthermore, a Field Station on Investigation in Locust has also been established at Bikaner. The details of the status of the sanctioned, working and vacant posts lying in these offices is at **Annexure-I**.

## Annexure- I

### Detail of staff position

S.No.	Group	Sanctioned posts	Working	Vacant Posts *
1	Group A & B	32	29	3
2	Group C	218	104	114
	Total	250	133	117

\* An Additional 40 nos. of technical officers/officials of Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage have been deployed in the various circle office for assistance in control and survey works.

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