

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2774  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005  
LOCUSTS INVASION  
Panda Shri Prabodh

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has received reports of locusts invasion in some parts of Western India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any step is taken to tackle the problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Small Scale breeding of locusts was observed in parts of the Scheduled Desert Area in Western India during the Monsoons. A contingency plan was prepared by the Locust Warning Organisation to deal with any impending locust situation. The State Governments of locust prone States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab were alerted of the impending locust threat. Locust numbers subsequently increased in September when reports were also received of breeding in adjacent areas in Pakistan. Several border meetings were held between the locust officers of India and Pakistan to exchange information on the latest locust situation in both countries for preparing and adopting a suitable control strategy. The Locust Warning Organisation launched a campaign for the control of locusts in the affected areas of Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan with effect from the second week of September, 2005. 31 fully equipped control teams have been deployed in the infested areas of these districts due to which the locust menace has been able to be effectively controlled. Survey & Surveillance measures are in progress in the Scheduled Desert Area to monitor and control any further locust infestation.