

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3774
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
PROBLEMS BY PARTHENIUM
Masood Shri Rasheed;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Parthenium which first came to Pune causing allergies has spread all over and has no natural enemy in India;
- (b) if so, whether agricultural scientists are planning to import some more friendly insects which can help rip into Parthenium;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has cleared Rs.70 lakh project to demonstrate large scale integrated management of Parthenium;
- (e) if so, whether pros and cons have been studied before importing insects in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and future strategy chalked out in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The insect *Zygogramma bicolorata* was imported to India in 1983 for controlling Parthenium after seeing its success in Mexico. One more host specific weevil *Smicronyx lutulentus* is recommended for introduction in India.

(d) Yes, Sir. Department of Biotechnology, Government of India cleared a Rs. 67 lakhs, three year project "Large scale demonstration on management of Parthenium through integrated approach" in 2004.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. Before importing any bio agent, its bio safety against other crops is ensured in strict quarantine conditions. Its further evaluation is made in terms of efficacy and economic viability as bio control agent for large scale adoption by the farmers.

The National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur with its coordinated centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras is making all efforts by way of awareness campaigns, trainings, demonstrations etc. to popularize *Zygogramma bicolorata* for controlling Parthenium.