

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3805  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005  
CONFERENCE ON PLASTICULTURE  
Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

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

- (a) whether any International Conference on Plasticulture hosted by the Government recently in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome thereof;
- (c) the number of countries participated in the conference; and
- (d) the extent to which the use of plastic in agriculture would be useful?

**Answer**

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

(a): An International Conference on Plasticulture and Precision Farming was held during 17 – 21 November, 2005 at New Delhi by the National Committee on Plasticulture Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(b): The Conference addressed various areas such as micro and sprinkler irrigation, sub- surface drainage, lining of water storage and conveyance systems with plastics film, surface covered cultivation, controlled environment cultivation, precision farming, organic farming, biotechnology, post harvest management including packaging, storage technology, policy issues etc.

About 800 delegates from India and abroad attended the conference including 130 farmers from various parts of the country. A number of recommendations on researchable issues, extension issues, policy issues were made during the conference.

(c): Representatives from 14 countries participated in the conference.

(d): The use of plastics in the agriculture sector is well recognized the world over as well as in India. The plasticulture applications which hold appreciable potential in the country are-drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, piped water distribution network, mulching, nursery bags, nursery structures, net and greenhouse, tunnels and low tunnels, plant protection nets, crates and boxes, pond and reservoir lining, canal lining, subsurface drainage etc. Many of these applications are already commercialized.