

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:115
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
INCREASE IN BROWN RUST DISEASE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether brown rust disease and unbalanced use of fertilizers by the farmers in the country are increasing rapidly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard and success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The reports received from the State Governments and field offices of the Central Government (Central Integrated Pest Management Centres) across the country do not indicate any increasing trend of brown rust disease in the country. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute has further reported that while no epidemic of brown rust disease has been recorded in the country for several years, the infestation has declined due to cultivation of disease resistant varieties.

Intensive cultivation and inadequate use of required plant nutrients has resulted in unbalanced use of fertilizers in the country. The NPK ratio in fertilizer consumption has widened from 5.9:2.4:1 during 1991-92 to 6.9:2.6:1 during 2003-04 though the said ratio has since improved to 5.7:2.2:1 during 2004-05.

(c): To check the spread of plant diseases, Government of India issues advisories to State Governments, from time to time to constitute survey teams for pest surveillance/monitoring so that timely control measures could be taken by the farmers. Also, CIPMCs located across the country are conducting field surveys for pest monitoring and submit their survey result/reports to State Department of Agriculture to enable them to take timely control measures.

Besides, Central Government as well as State Department of Agriculture have been engaged in organizing Farmers Fields Schools (FFSs) to impart training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology to the farmers and Agriculture Extension Officers for control of pests and diseases on various crops including brown rust disease in wheat crop. The package of IPM practices for management of pest/diseases have been developed for 77 crops in collaboration with ICAR, SAUs & State Department of Agriculture, - and have been made available to all States/UTs and are also available on website WWW.Dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by all concerned.

A number of brown rust resistant high yielding varieties have been identified and released by the Central Wheat Research Centre (CWRC) such as VL Gehun 829, VL Gehun 804, VL Gehun 832 for the hills of different States.

Further, to check the unbalanced use of fertilizers, the Government of India has also been promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which emphasizes balanced use of nutrients in agriculture and soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermin compost, etc.