

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:986
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
INSECTS AND PESTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the insects and pests are steadily eating into our agricultural produce and every year farmers lose crops worth crores of rupees;
- (b) if so, the details of loss due to pests for the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken to educate the farmers about proper pest control management to improve the yield of agricultural produce?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): It has been estimated that crop losses due to pests including insect pests, diseases, rodents and weeds range between 10 to 30% every year depending on climatic and environmental conditions. The insect pest/disease situation generally remained normal i.e. below Economic Threshold Level (ETL) throughout the country during the past year. However, minor incidence of some insect pests/diseases were reported in some parts of the country which were timely managed by adopting suitable control measures.

(c): Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle covering plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, inter-alia, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs). Government has, so far organized 9111 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and 2,75,056 farmers in IPM techniques. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture / ICAR Institutions/ State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers