

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1012  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006  
PLANT DISEASE  
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties arising out of plant diseases and the use of agricultural inputs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the benefit of farmers and to educate them to overcome these difficulties;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Pests and diseases are estimated to account for crop losses ranging between 10 to 30% every year. The insect pest/disease situation generally remained normal i.e. below Economic Threshold Level (ETL), throughout the country during 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) to (e): 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 packages 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](http://www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin) for use by extension functionaries and farmers