

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006

VIRUSES AFFECTED PEPPER PRODUCTION

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the produce of pepper is being affected by some kind of viruses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Black pepper plants are affected by two viruses, namely Cucumber Mosaic Virus and Pepper Yellow Mottle Virus. These diseases spread through use of infected stem cuttings and through vector insects such as aphids and mealy bugs. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut has developed sensitive diagnostics for virus indexing and only virus free planting materials are recommended for planting. Spray of insecticides such as dimethoate @ 0.05% is recommended wherever vector insects such as aphids and mealy bugs are noticed.