

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2423
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
SPREAD OF PARTHENIUM/ CONGRESS GRASS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ravaging weed, Parthenium or Congress Grass has spread to a menacing level in all places of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any strategy to control the spread of Parthenium or Congress Grass;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for effective control of this weed at the earliest?

Answer

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

(a): Parthenium or Congress Grass is found all over the country, mainly on barren and vacant lands.

(b)&(c): Details of the strategy for the control of Parthenium are as follows:
Physical Methods:

- (i) Uprooting before flowering.
- (ii) Use of uprooted Parthenium plants for composting.
- (iii) Use of competitive plants such as Cassia sericea/tora, marigold for replacing parthenium.

Chemical methods:

- (i) Use of 15% solution of sodium chloride (common salt) on older plants.
- (ii) Spray of 2-4, D amine salts at the rate of 1.5 – 2 kg. a.i./ha in 300-400 litre of water on young plants of Parthenium.
- (iii) Spraying paraquat on mature Parthenium plants @ 0.5 kg. a.i./ha for desiccation and subsequently burning of the dried plants.
- (iv) Blanket application of Diuron or Atrazine @ 2.0-2.5 kg. a.i./ha. to check emergence of Parthenium weed.
- (v) Spraying Glyphosate @ 3.00 litre/ha. on young plants of Parthenium.

Biological method:

Zygogramma bicolorata beetle has been identified for the biological control of Parthenium weed.

(d): Government of India has sanctioned a project on `Large scale demonstration on management of Parthenium through integrated approach` in May 2004 for a period of three years at seven centres of country. The project is being coordinated by National Research Centre for Weed Sciences (NRCWS), Jabalpur. The other centres are Acharya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University (ANGRAU), Hyderabad, University of Agriculture Sciences (UAS), Bangalore, Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU), Coimbatore, University of Agriculture Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (HPKV), Palampur, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapet (MPKV), Rahuri and Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur.

To make people aware of the ill-effects of the parthenium and its management, short term courses are organized regularly by NRCWS, Jabalpur for Officers, Scientist, NGOs, progressive farmers, etc.

More than 5 lakh Mexican beetles (Zygogramma Bicolorata) have been distributed free of cost through out the country for effective control of Parthenium especially in non-cropped areas.