

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3434  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006  
CROP LOSS DUE TO VIRUS BORNE DISEASES  
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether virus borne diseases cause heavy loss to crop every year;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to expand and boost technique of saving crops by implanting protein with the help of bio-technology developed by the researchers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a): A number of plant viral diseases occur in various parts of the country and cause varying degree of loss to crops.
- (b)&(c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated several projects to develop virus-resistant transgenic plants by employing biotechnology techniques. ICAR has also established a Network Project on Transgenics which addresses important viral diseases of field and horticultural crops. The Department of Biotechnology supports many projects for the development of viral resistant transgenic crop varieties