

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3495
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
APICULTURE INDUSTRY
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that apiculture industry in entire North India particularly in Punjab and Haryana has been destroyed upto 50 to 70 per cent due to the out break of veroamite epidemic; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check this disease?

Answer

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

(a): The occurrence of Varroa mite in some colonies of honey bee, *Apis mellifera* in some parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Rajasthan were noticed by All India Coordinated Project on Honeybee Research Training (Hissar). The losses inflicted by the Varroa mite varied within an area being more in poorly managed / neglected colonies and less in scientific managed / well kept bee colonies. The migratory bee keeping which is increasing being followed by a large number of bee keepers in North India as contributed towards involuntary spread of Varroa mite from one region to another region along with bees on these migratory roots.

(b): The emerging problem of Varroa mite has been given the center stage in the research and training programmers of All India Coordinated Project on Honey Bee Research and Training. All the 9 centres are entrusted the responsibilities to undertake survey work and monitor the occurrence and incidence in their respective region / States, and devise appropriate management strategies which are economically viable, ecologically safe and easy to adopt. Greater thrust is laid to educate the beekeepers through conduct of specialized trainings on management of Varroa mite including the scientific management strategies to be adopted.

Adoption of scientific beekeeping management strategies, restricting the movement of infested colonies to new areas, strengthening the weaker colonies, regular inspection and cleaning of hives and timely application of appropriate dose of sulphur powder on wooden frames, application of formic acid and systemic acaricide / miticide under the guidance of experts, are some of the strategies which are advocated/recommended. Adoption of all these technologies has yielded the desired results so far.