

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2223  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006  
DISEASE IN PEPPER PLANTATION  
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the viral disease of pepper or stunted disease widely prevalent in black pepper plantations of Karnataka and Kerala is causing substantial loss to cultivators; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers to tackle this disease and overcome the financial loss?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): 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. These are more prevalent in Wyanad and Idukki districts of Kerala and Kodagu district of Karnataka. 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 as aphids and mealy bugs are noticed.