

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2252
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER 2021

USE OF TECHNOLOGY AGAINST LOCUST ATTACK

2252. SHRIMATI GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government has used any new technology to resolve the problem of locust attack, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) Whether Government has put locust attack under the category of natural disaster?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Locust attacks were reported in India during 2019-20 and 2020-21 when locusts migrated to India after a gap of 26 years. Government of India used new technologies to resolve the problem of locust attack. These included:

- The use of e-Locust 3 Tab, e-Locust M provided by FAO that provide precise location (GPS), stage of locust and migration pattern based on wind direction. The data generated is very useful for forecasting, forewarning & for taking control measures.
- 70 new spray equipment *i.e.*, ULVA Mast V4 & ULV Mocronair have been procured. These are very effective in control of Desert Locust in scheduled desert area.
- To strengthen aerial control capabilities, Drones, a Bell Helicopter and customized Mi17 Helicopter of Indian Air Force were deployed for Locust Control.

(b): Government of India has put locust attack under the category of Natural Disaster. Ministry of Home Affairs has included admissibility of hiring of vehicles, tractors with spray equipment for spraying of plant protection chemicals for pest control; hiring of water tankers; and purchase of plant protection chemicals for locust control under new norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
