

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2928**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

**CROP LOSS DUE TO WEEDS, INSECTS AND DISEASES**

2928. SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण  
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be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is aware that weeds, insects and diseases are the three main biological factors responsible for losing crop yield and causing economic losses to the farmers across the country;
- if so, the quantum of agriculture crops losses annually due to weeds, insects and diseases across the country;
- whether the Government has since taken or proposes to take any effective steps to protect farmer's produce from weeds, insects and diseases; and
- if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ"ããÈã¾ã ½ãñâ Àã¾ã ½ãâ"ããè ( SHRI GAJENDRA  
SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Estimations suggest that on an average, crop losses vary from 10-30% annually due to weeds, pests and diseases across the country (according to various reports/ publications). However, losses due to pest and diseases are not static and vary from year to year depending upon the prevailing agro-climatic conditions (temperature, humidity, rainfall) and other predisposing factors such as susceptible crop variety, Agronomic practices etc.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" (SMPMA) Scheme through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) established across the country with an aim to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. CIPMCs inter alia, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. In addition, these CIPMCs organizes Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. In addition, Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures. Timely advisories are being issued by the Ministry to the State Government disseminating, inter alia management strategies to prevent pests attack. Furthermore, the State Governments through various forums such as Zonal Conferences and National Conference are requested to exhort their extension functionaries to educate and impart training to farmers on efficacious and sustainable pest management strategies /approaches and to maintain constant surveillance.