

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 611
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/02/2018

LOSSES OF FARM PRODUCE DUE TO WEEDS

611. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a survey conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Research Association of India, the 10 major crops suffer huge economic losses due to weeds every year in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the efforts are being made by the Government to tackle the menace of weed so that these losses may be reduced substantially; and
- (c) whether it is fact that weeds are responsible for decreasing production of eight most important food and cash crops by 13.6 per cent globally and if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Yes, Madam. A study was conducted to estimate the yield and economic losses due to weeds using the data from 1581 On-Farm Research trials conducted by All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Weed Management between 2003- 2014 in 10 major field crops in different districts of 18 states of India. The economic losses due to weeds alone in 10 major crops of India were highest in rice followed by wheat and soybean. The details are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) ICAR through DWR, Jabalpur, AICRP on Weed Management, other institutes, KVK's and State Departments of Agriculture is providing technical advisory/recommendations on weed management in major crops. ICAR-DWR and AICRP-Weed Management centres are also conducting on-farm research trial/field demonstration, Farmers' fair, Farmer-Scientist interactions, Kisan Sangosthi and capacity building programmes to create awareness among farmers and other stakeholders to adopt improved weed management technologies in different crops to reduce/minimize economic losses due to weeds. The developed/validated weed management practices are also included in package of practices of respective states to tackle the menace of weeds.
- (c) Weeds are responsible for decreasing the production of most important food and cash crops by 13.2%. The details are given in **Annexure-II**.

Economic losses due to weeds

Crop	Losses (in US\$ in millions)
Rice	4420
Soybean	1559
Groundnut	283
Pearlmillet	17
Sorghum	276
Greengram	161
Sesame	50
Wheat	3376
Maize	739
Mustard	72

Actual losses due to weeds in major Indian crops

Crop	Actual losses due to weeds (%)
Wheat	18.6
Rice (transplanted)	13.8
Rice (direct-seeded)	21.4
Maize	25.3
Groundnut	35.8
Soybean	31.4
Green gram	30.8
Sesame	23.7
Pearlmillet	27.6
Mustard	21.4
Sorghum	25.1

References indicating decreasing production of important food and cash crops due to weeds:

1. Oerke, E.C., 2006. Crop losses to pests: centenary review. *Journal of Agricultural Science* 144, 31–43.
2. Sardana, V., Mahaja, G, Jabran, K. and Chauhan B.S. 2017. Role of competition in managing weeds; an introduction to the special issue. *Crop Protection* 95: 1-7.
3. Yaduraju, N.T., 2012. Weed management perspectives for India in the changing agriculture scenario in the country. *Pakistan Journal of Weed Science Research* 18: 703–710.
