

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3379
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2023

LOCUST ATTACK

3379. SHRI RAJA AMARESHWAR NAIK

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

- (a) Whether there are widespread locust attacks in different parts of the country causing widespread crop losses to farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether the Government has assessed the damage caused by locust to farmers including the details of total hectares of crops damaged and if so, the details thereof, crop and state-wise
- (c) Whether any talks have been held with neighbouring countries from where the locusts have originated, if so, the details thereof and its outcome;
- (d) Whether the Government is planning to give any compensation or relief for farmers who have been affected by locust attacks and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) Whether farmers in locust affected areas in the country have been educated or trained about locust attacks, if so, the details thereof along with preventive measures/action plan taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) Locust attack is not a regular phenomenon and large scale incursions occur in cycles of heightened activity for a couple of years followed by long periods of inactivity. Locust attacks were reported in India during 2019-20 and 2020-21 when locusts migrated to India after a gap of 26 years. During 2019-20, locust incursion was reported in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The situation is now calm in India and its neighboring countries like Iran and Pakistan (SWAC region). The details of area affected and the crop damage in affected States are given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) India being the member of FAO-SWAC (Commission for Controlling Desert Locust in South West Asian Countries) and DLCC (Desert Locust Control Committee), regularly attends/participates in SWAC and DLCC sessions/meetings. SWAC & DLCC provides technical, material support, global guidance, situation of Desert Locust (DL) and early warning on potential

threat to the member countries. Details of the SWAC meeting and Indo-Pak Border Meetings held since 2019 till February, 2023 are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) Agriculture being the State subject, the state governments are giving compensation as per their norms. For the year 2019-20, the State Government of Rajasthan has reported that, an amount of Rs. 13285.59 lakh were disbursed to 87,626 beneficiaries through State Disaster Response Fund as Agriculture Input Subsidy and an amount of Rs. 56520.00 lakh were disbursed to 204215 beneficiaries through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana during 2019-20. Further financial assistance of Rs.6865 lakh is provided to Rajasthan under National Disaster Relief Fund(NDRF). State Government of Gujarat has reported that, during 2019-20, an amount of Rs. 2033.94 lakh was provided to affected farmers. Uttar Pradesh Government has reported that an amount of Rs. 3.25 lakh was provided to 112 affected farmers during 2020-21.

(e) The Government of India has established 10 Locust Circle Offices(LCOs), 8 in Rajasthan & 2 in Gujarat, one Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) at Jodhpur, and one Field Station for Investigations on Locust (FSIL) at Bikaner to deal with the problem of locust swarms and following steps are also taken by the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad: .

- 308 awareness programmes were organized during 2019-20 and 2020-21 desert locust attack in virtual mode due to COVID-19 pandemic. Under Azadi-ka-Amrit Mahotsav, 22 kisan ghostis were conducted at district, block and village levels across the Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan & Gujarat during 2022-23. Organized Two (02) National training workshops during 2021-22 under FAO assistance. The agriculture extension officials of locust prone states i.e. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana & Punjab including officials of LCOs attended the workshops on locust awareness & control. A contingency plan has been prepared, is implemented in case of any emergency due to DL upsurge/internal breeding.
- LWO/DPPQS releases fortnightly Desert Locust Situation Bulletin which is shared with SWAC, and State Administration and Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab etc. the bulletin carries forecast of desert locust for upcoming 15 days and helps in forewarning and preparations in any DL invasions/internal breeding.
- As part of preparedness plan, a week in the months of April-May is specifically dedicated for locust awareness and preparedness in the States of Rajasthan & Gujarat every year, prior to the onset of active locust season.

Annexure-I

The details of area affected and the State-wise crop damage due to Locust attack during 2019-20 & 2020-21

2019-2020	
States	Affected Area in ha.
Rajasthan	1,57,279
Gujarat	22,067
Punjab	Nil
2020-21	
Rajasthan	489.72
Gujarat	No crop loss
Punjab	No crop loss
Chhattisgarh	No crop loss
Bihar	No crop loss
Uttarakhand	Minimal loss
Haryana	Minimal loss
Maharashtra	805.8
Uttar Pradesh	28.86
Madhya Pradesh	4400

Annexure-II

SWAC Meetings		
Year	SWAC countries (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran)	No. of meetings
2019 (May- December) During Desert Locust Upsurge	Virtual meeting fortnightly	16
2020 (Jan- August) During Desert Locust Upsurge	Virtual meeting fortnightly	16
2020 (September-December) During Desert Locust Upsurge	Virtual meeting monthly	4
2021 Jan-Dec No locust upsurge	Virtual meeting monthly	12
2022 Jan-Oct No locust upsurge	Virtual meeting monthly	10
2023 Feb	Virtual meeting w.r.t DLCC SESSION	2
Indo-Pak Border meeting		

SWAC Meetings		
2019 (May- December) During Desert Locust Upsurge	Fortnight virtual meeting with SWAC	16
2020 (Jan- August) During Desert Locust Upsurge	Fortnight virtual meeting with SWAC	16
2020 (September-December) During Desert Locust Upsurge	monthly virtual meeting with SWAC	4
2021 Jan-Dec No locust upsurge	monthly virtual meeting with SWAC	12
2022 Jan-Oct No locust upsurge	monthly virtual meeting with SWAC	10
2022 November	Physical India-Pakistan border meeting	1 (Physical meeting started again after Covid since virtual SWAC meetings were discontinued)
2023 Feb	Virtual meeting w.r.t DLCC SESSION	2
