

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2023

CHILLI PRODUCTION

2616. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) the details of the production of chilli in the country during the last four years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of pest/insect attacks and erratic rainfall on the quantity and quality of chilli harvest during the last four years;

(c) if so, the details of the findings of such assessment, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government is considering the creation of a separate Chilli Board in Andhra Pradesh to help chilli farmers in improving the cultivation, processing and marketing of their produce; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) The details of State-wise production of Chilli in the country during the last four years are given in **Annexure-1**.

(b) & (c) In 2021-22 crop season, the Chilli crop was affected by a new invasive thrips species and its infestation caused significant damage to the crop, bringing down the Chilli production at national level from 20.49 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 to 18.36 lakh tonnes in 2021-22. The infestation was severe in the State of Andhra Pradesh, where the production had gone down to 4.18 lakh tonnes in 2021-22 from 7.97 lakh tonnes recorded previous year. The productivity of Chilli in Andhra Pradesh plummeted to 1.86 tonnes/ha in 2021-22 from an average annual productivity of 4 to 5 tonnes/ha.

The Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S) under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare constituted an Expert Committee in December 2021 for conducting survey and assessment of Thrips infestation on Chilli crop in Andhra Pradesh. As per the assessment of the Expert Committee, the following factors were the possible reasons for the thrips infestation:

- **Invasive pest thrips specis-** Since Thrips parvispinus is an invasive pest species; it might have dominated/replaced the native chilli thrips.
- **Favourable climatic conditions** for pest establishment and multiplication, led by unusually intensive North-East Monsoon rains. Hot and humid conditions that further aggravated the thrips incidence on chilli
- **Lack of natural enemies**
- **Excessive/ Indiscriminate spraying of chemical pesticides** - possibly killing beneficial fauna and natural enemies of Thrips parvispinus in chilli fields.
- **Staggered planting** might have provided continuous niche of food and shelter for thrips

(d) & (e) Presently, there is no proposal for creation of a separate Chilli Board in Andhra Pradesh.

Currently, the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry adequately cover all the aspects of production, quality management, domestic marketing and export promotion of spices including Chilli in the Country.

The mandate for production, research, development, post-harvest treatment and domestic marketing of spices, including chilli, is vested in the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), etc. DA&FW implements several programmes related to the production and development of spices, including Chilli, under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Spices board has the mandate for export promotion and quality control of spices exported from India, and undertakes activities for post-harvest improvement, building market-linkages, export promotion and quality evaluation of spices, including chilli, for export.

Annexure-1

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Question No. 2616 on Chilli Production to be answered on 19th December 2023

State-wise production of Chilli for the year form 2019-20 to 2022-23 (2nd Adv.Est)					
Production in '000 MT					
Sl. No.	States/UTs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023 (2nd Adv. Est.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	805.03	796.65	417.81	767.00
2	Telangana	436.38	536.54	651.34	506.93
3	Madhya Pradesh	208.63	315.60	319.82	322.00
4	Karnataka	129.24	147.05	177.31	167.97
5	Odisha	69.28	69.28	69.26	89.00
6	Gujarat	18.91	23.35	28.78	30.65
7	Uttar Pradesh	11.81	12.07	25.41	27.23
8	Tamil Nadu	22.92	25.65	26.38	21.97
9	Punjab	16.96	17.63	19.96	21.42
10	Assam	21.87	20.19	20.61	21.07
11	Maharashtra	22.43	24.48	19.88	19.96
12	Rajasthan	20.03	10.93	13.38	11.74
13	Mizoram	10.92	10.92	10.92	10.92
14	Uttarakhand	9.63	9.69	9.33	9.07
15	West Bengal	8.58	7.82	7.78	7.78
16	Tripura	6.66	6.70	6.96	7.60
17	Nagaland	1.75	4.33	1.57	4.33
18	Bihar	4.71	3.65	3.62	3.89
19	Chhattisgarh	3.25	3.25	3.11	2.81
20	Haryana	4.03			2.42
21	Manipur	0.00		1.56	1.09
22	Arunachal Pradesh	0.85	2.38	0.01	0.98
23	Himachal Pradesh	0.28	0.40	0.43	0.54
24	Jammu & Kashmir	0.56	0.55	0.51	0.50
25	Others	0.41	0.13	0.47	0.50
	Total	1835.10	2049.21	1836.22	2059.36
