

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1267
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021

CONTROLLING LOCUST SWARM

1267. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

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

- (a) whether any step has been taken by the Government for controlling locust swarm;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the hectares of land brought under control by running campaign against locust swarm;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has announced for a increased minimum support price for ripe/peeled coconut and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is formulating scheme to increase income of honey farmers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) whether sowing area has increased in Rabi season this year in comparison to last year and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Government of India has established Locust Warning Organization and ten Locust Circle Offices which primarily monitor, survey and control Desert Locust in Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat in coordination with the State Governments.

Government of India took various steps for controlling locust swarms during 2020-21 and worked on strengthening of ground & aerial spray capabilities, human resources and also provided financial assistance to States. Major steps taken were-

- To strengthen locust control capabilities, additional 60 equipments were procured and capacity of control teams with spray equipment mounted vehicles were increased to 104, which were utilized for ground control operations.
- 55 vehicles were procured to strengthen ground control potential.
- More than 200 Central Government personnel were deployed in locust control operations.
- Drones were used for locust control for the first time in the world after finalizing protocols and one Bell 206-B3 helicopter and Indian Air Force, Mi17 helicopter with customized aerial spray equipment were also used for locust control by aerial spraying.
- Review meetings and VCs were organized with State Governments and locust control preparedness was strategized, capacity building and awareness campaigns were organized in districts, blocks and villages, advisories were issued, training programs and mock drills were conducted. When Covid-19 struck, awareness literature & videos were shared through virtual medium to orient both functionaries and farmers. Control rooms were established in Locust offices and District Headquarters and WhatsApp groups were created in all affected States for real time exchange of information and coordination.
- Regular surveys were undertaken by Locust offices and State Government authorities and control operations carried out against different stages of locusts.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has included admissibility of hiring of vehicles, tractors with spray equipments 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). This has also facilitated the States in their locust control operations.
- Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of Rs. 2.86 crores for 800 tractors mounted spray equipments was sanctioned to Rajasthan. Under RKVY sanction of Rs. 14 crores for hiring of vehicles, tractors and for purchase of pesticides has also been issued.
- Gujarat States has been sanctioned Rs. 1.80 crores under RKVY for capacity enhancement for locust control.
- Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of 2.20 crore has been sanctioned for purchase of tractors and spray equipments for Uttar Pradesh.

(c) & (d): During 2010-21, operations were undertaken in coordination with State Governments for locust control. Control operations were carried out in an area of 2,87,986 hectares by Locust Circle Offices and 2,83,268 hectares by State Governments.

(e): The Minimum Support Price for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) copra has been increased to Rs.10,335/- per quintal for 2021 season from Rs.9,960/- per quintal in 2020, with an increase of Rs.375/ - per quintal. Further, the MSP for ball copra has been increased to Rs.10,600/- per quintal for 2021 season from Rs.10,300/- per quintal, with an increase of Rs.300/ - per quintal

(f): Government of India is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for overall development of horticulture in the country. Under MIDH, a component of "Pollination support through Beekeeping" has been included to promote beekeeping in the Country. Under this component financial assistance is provided for various capacity building programmes.

Beekeeping is also being promoted under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Keeping in view the importance of Apiculture/ Beekeeping, Government of India also approved a new Central Sector Scheme entitled "National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for 2 years (2018-19 & 2019-20) for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode to achieve the goal of "Sweet Revolution" in the country. NBHM has again been approved by Government of India for its continuation for further period of 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23) and Rs.500 crores allotted under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Announcement. NIBM will be implemented through National Bee Board.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is implementing a cluster development scheme since 2014-15 namely Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), under which honey related clusters are considered. The scheme is implemented through Khadi & Village Industries Commission.

(g): The Total area sown in current Rabi season (as on 29.01.2021) is 684.59 lakh hectare while it was 665.59 lakh hectare last year on the same date. Thus, an increase of 19.01 lakh hectare area sowing is achieved for the current year. State-wise details may be seen as **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Area Coverage of Rabi Crops as on 29.01.2021 (Area in Lakh ha)

S.No	State	Normal Area (DES)	Area Sown		Difference of 2020-21 over Last year 2019-20	% Increase(+)/ decrease(-) over 2019-20
			2020-21 (Current year)	2019-20 (Last year)		
1	Andhra Pradesh	21.01	18.39	19.55	-1.15	-5.91
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.43	0.44	0.45	-0.01	-1.77
3	Assam	8.60	6.24	5.59	0.64	11.49
4	Bihar	31.43	35.11	34.40	0.71	2.06
5	Chhattisgarh	8.05	14.17	13.86	0.32	2.30
6	Gujarat	15.81	25.75	21.48	4.27	19.88
7	Haryana	31.68	31.94	31.28	0.66	2.11
8	Himachal Pradesh	3.74	3.82	3.72	0.11	2.90
9	Jharkhand	7.80	11.31	9.00	2.31	25.67
10	J&K	3.54	2.91	2.64	0.27	10.32
11	Karnataka	30.26	25.94	26.82	-0.88	-3.28
12	Kerala	0.47	0.78	0.67	0.11	16.42
13	Madhya Pradesh	109.65	131.01	124.25	6.76	5.44
14	Maharashtra	54.19	57.25	54.59	2.67	4.89
15	Odisha	6.72	13.70	13.87	-0.17	-1.24
16	Punjab	35.83	35.70	35.77	-0.07	-0.20
17	Rajasthan	71.61	83.61	83.67	-0.05	-0.06
18	Tamil Nadu	12.51	19.46	20.04	-0.58	-2.91
19	Telangana	10.96	15.03	11.75	3.28	27.96
20	Uttar Pradesh	119.72	130.64	130.03	0.61	0.47
21	Uttarakhand	3.93	3.90	4.12	-0.22	-5.32
22	West Bengal	15.15	13.33	12.72	0.60	4.73
	Total (22 major states)	603.08	680.45	660.27	20.18	3.06
	All-India	620.27	684.59	665.59	19.01	2.86
