

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Tripura	301032	479428	59.26
11.	Uttarakhand*	—	890667	—
TOTAL HILLY AREA:		5848870	6304543	22.70

*Total and percentages excludes Uttarakhand as comparative data is not available.

Use of sub-standard pesticides

148. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in the country lose their crops worth several crore annually due to use of sub-standard pesticides and insecticides;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any proper check on the manufacturers and distributors of pesticides and insecticides on the quality of their products, the farmers who are using such products are badly affected; and

(d) if so, the details of corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

(a) and (b) The Government has received representations from the pesticide industry regarding manufacture and sale of spurious pesticides in the market. A news item published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' dated 22/09/2008 had mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs. 6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Quality of pesticides is checked by the State Governments through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples by Insecticide Inspectors, Insecticide Analysts and Pesticide Testing Laboratories under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. 21 States and one UT have set up 55 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories with an annual capacity of analyzing over 52,940 pesticide samples. Two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur with annual capacity of 2,000 samples supplement the resources of States/UTs in analysis of pesticides. Besides, the Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory at Faridabad as referral laboratory.

Demand of Bt. Cotton seeds in the country

149. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Bt. Cotton seeds demand in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;