

### **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

3842. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Agricultural Insurance Scheme presently covers presowing/planting risks;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to cover them also; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) and (b) No, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is under implementation since Rabi 1999-2000 covers only yield losses due to non-preventable risk during period from sowing till harvesting.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on recommendations including coverage of pre-sowing/planting risk of the Joint Group, constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) has been prepared by the Government.

### **Growth of parthenium weed**

3843. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of arable land that has become uncultivable due to rampant growth of the parthenium weed;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the experiments conducted in the State of Haryana of using the beetle zygramma as an effective antidote; and
- (c) the action Government intends to take for carrying out adequate tests for the development of this beetle as an antidote to the pernicious weed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):  
(a) Out of total cultivable and arable land about 14.25 million hectare land has been estimated to be infested severely with the rampant growth of parthenium weed. However, with manual weeding and using herbicides, farmers are able to cultivate crops in these areas too but with low productivity.

(b) Government is aware that parthenium weed defoliating beetle zygogramma bicolorata is being used to suppress parthenium in the State of Haryana. Nucleus culture of zygogramma bicolorata supplied from Directorate of Weed Science Research, Jabalpur is being regularly released by Haryana Agricultural University the Krishi Vigyan Kendras located in different districts of Haryana.

(c) Research efforts have been made at Directorate of Weed Science Research, Jabalpur to develop technologies to mass rear zygogramma bicolorata throughout the year to use it as an