

**Loss of foodgrains and crops due to use of pesticides**

2358. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual loss of foodgrains and major crops due to use of pesticides;
- (b) the reasons therefor alongwith the data of annual loss during each of the last three years and in the current year till date, crop-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the loss of foodgrains and major crops due to use of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Pesticides are meant to protect a plant from pests/diseases, if used as per label claims. They are applied to minimize crop loss in the event of pest attack/disease. As such, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) does not have any report of crop loss on account of pesticide use when applied judiciously as per approved label claim.

**Cultivation of pulses**

2359. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cultivation of pulses is reducing day-by-day;
- (b) whether most of the farmers have switched over to cultivate wheat, rice and cash crops of vegetables and horticulture which are more beneficial to them;
- (c) the quantum of pulses imported from other countries due to their shortage during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take to motivate farmers to cultivate pulses at large scale to reduce their import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) During 2006-07 to 2009-10, the area under cultivation of pulses in the country has been hovering around 22-23 million hectares. In 2010-11, the area under pulses increased significantly to a record level of 26.40 million hectares. However, in the next year, *i.e.*, 2011-12, the pulses area declined to 24.78

million hectares, mainly on account of decrease in area under pulses cultivation in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) As indicated in the table below, the area under rice, wheat, vegetables and horticulture crops has been increasing during the last three years:

(Lakh Hectare)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Vegetables	Horticulture Crops
2009-10	419.18	284.57	79.85	208.76
2010-11	428.62	290.69	84.95	218.24
2011-12	439.74	299.02	88.13	227.40

*Note:* Figures for rice and wheat for 2011-12 are as per 4th Advance estimates and that for Vegetables and Horticulture Crops are as per 3rd Advance Estimates.

(c) The quantity of pulses imported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity Imported (in thousand tonnes)
2009-10	3509.58
2010-11	2698.66
2011-12	3364.80

(d) In order to motivate farmers and increase production and productivity of pulses, the Government is implementing several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses), Special Plan to achieve more than 19 million tonnes of pulse production during 2012-13, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) etc. In order to increase productivity of pulses, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also taken several measures to strengthen the basic research in pulses to develop location specific varieties and technology suitable for varied agro ecologies. Further, to incentives farmers for cultivation of pulses in the country, their Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) have also been increased significantly.