

66 <i>Written Answers to</i>		[RAJYA SABHA]	<i>Unstarred Questions</i>
1	2		3
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		-
30.	Chandigarh		1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		-
32.	Daman and Diu		-
33.	Delhi		1
34.	Lakshadweep		1
35.	Puducherry		2
TOTAL			2294

Damage to crops by monkeys and wild animals

†1835. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to heavy damage caused by monkeys and wild animals to crops in Uttarakhand, farmers have almost abandoned farming;

(b) if so, the area of land in hectares on which farming is not being carried out since the year 2009 till date, year-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government would give directions to agriculture research institute to develop such alternate farming pattern in Uttarakhand that could not be damaged by monkeys and wild animals; and

(d) if not, the manner in which loss being suffered by the farmers of Uttarakhand would be compensated for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Government of Uttarakhand has informed that monkeys are causing damage to agricultural crops. However, abandonment of farming by farmers due to damage caused by monkeys and wild animals to crops has not been reported.

(c) and (d) Alternate farming options like agro-forestry, protected cultivation,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

mushroom cultivation, fisheries in water harvesting tanks and methods to prevent monkeys damage such as use of ultrasonic monkey repellents, plastic covering, nailed wiring, tin covering in mid trunk of trees, etc. are under exploration at the research institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

The Government of Uttarakhand has promulgated the 'Manav Vanyajeev Sangharsh Rahat Bitaran Nidhi Niyamawali-2012' that contains provisions for payment of compensation for crop damage by wild animals like monkeys, elephants, wild pigs etc. as given below:

Name of Crop	Extent of damage (%)	Amount (₹ per acre)
Sugarcane	100	25,000
Paddy/Wheat/Oilseeds	100	15,000
All other crops	100	8,000

MSP of maize

1836. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers in Punjab were motivated to diversify and cultivate maize in a large area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether farmers have actually cultivated maize in a large area;
- (d) whether there is an increase in the MSP of maize;
- (e) whether there is a demand to raise MSP for maize; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to diversify cropping pattern from water guzzling paddy to alternate crops like maize, pulses, oilseeds and agro-forestry, Government is implementing Crop Diversification Programme in all 22 districts of Punjab since 2013-14.

Further, under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), coarse cereals including maize are being promoted in three districts of Punjab viz; Hoshiarpur, Ropar and Nawanshahr from 2014-15.