

(b) No, Sir. The incidence of this disease was found to be at trace level, *i.e.* below the Economic Threshold Level (ETL).

(c) to (e) Since the intensity of the disease was found to be below ETL, therefore no significant losses are likely to accrue to farmers. Government of Maharashtra is maintaining vigil on this disease through CROPSAP. No proposal for financial assistance on account of Cotton wilt has been received from the State Government in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Soil testing institute in Uttarakhand

†1397. SHRI MAHENDRASINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made efforts to explore the possibilities to open Soil Testing Institute in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the names of the places;

(c) whether Government consider it justifiable to open Soil Testing Institute in the State; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in the opening of Soil Testing Institute in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research under All India Coordinated Research Project on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) is addressing soil testing related research issues in the country including the State of Uttarakhand having its centre at Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUA and T), Pantnagar since 1970.

(c) In addition, the State already has 13 static and 3 mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs). Besides, 6 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are providing soil and water testing facilities. Considering all these, there is no proposal of opening soil testing institute in the State presently.

(d) Does not arise.

Organic farming becoming popular

1398. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.