

Assessment of cotton crop loss

2157. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the methodology used for assessing the cotton crop loss/damage in Punjab and other States;

(b) whether appointment of the assessing individuals or agencies is undertaken by the Central or State Government in Punjab and other States; and

(c) the time-period over which the assessment was conducted in Punjab and whether the Ministry received periodic review reports during the assessment period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per information received from Government of Punjab, the methodology used for assessing the cotton crop loss/damaged is conducted by Revenue Official at the level of District Administration by Patwari be verified cent per cent by the Kanungo/ Circle Revenue Officers, 50% by the Sub-Divisional Officers (C) and random check be undertaken by the Deputy Commissioner. The crop loss is conducted at the level of Government.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India also monitors the appearances of pest and diseases on cotton crop through surveillance mechanism available with the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS), Field reports of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Department of Agriculture etc. in the States including Punjab during the crop season. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare sends its team of experts to the affected area of the States time to time including officials of Central and State Government and ICAR for preliminary reports.

In Maharashtra Crop Pest Surveillance and Advisory Project (CROP SAP) is being implemented in the State since 2009-10. The Project is mainly based on three major components *viz.* carryout regular and scientific surveillance of major pests of cotton give scientific plant protection advisories to farmers based on online pest surveillance reports and to create awareness about crop pest/disease and supply of chemical and biological pesticides in critical situations on 50% subsidy. All sown area of cotton crop in Kharif season is covered under the project. Various crop research institutes are involved *viz.* National Integrated Pest Management Centre (NCIPM), New Delhi; Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad; National Institute for Plant

Health Management, Hyderabad and State Agriculture Universities (SAUs). While, State Agriculture Department is implementing nodal agency. The project envisages regular scientific pest surveillance, on-line data feeding, data analysis and its on-line accessibility to experts for interpretation and issuance of on-line real time based location specific advisories. The advisory SMS are sent on-line to registered farmers and detail advisories are published at Gram Panchayat notice boards and in local media for mass awareness. Wherever the pest population crosses Economic Threshold Level (ETL) subsidized pesticides are supplied on priority through different programmes. Massive State wide campaign was organized and implemented in the state for cotton crops.

Other cotton growing States like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Haryana have also informed to conduct assessment of crop losses through Government, extension officials, scientists and Relief Commissioners etc.

(c) In Punjab, the assessment is conducted for the Kharif Crop 16th September to 15th October and Rabi Crop-1st March every year. If there is a loss due to natural calamities then Special harvest inspection to be carried out after a period of ten days of the date of occurrence of the natural calamity. This Special Girdawari, if so ordered, may be completed within a week.

Compensation for cotton crop loss

2158. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the amount of compensation paid by Government of Punjab for cotton crop loss due to whitefly attack, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total area, in lakh hectares, under which cotton crop was cultivated during the year 2015-16 and the area in which the crop was damaged; and

(c) the total area, in lakh hectares, of cotton crop cultivation for which the compensation was awarded by the Revenue Department of the Government of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Punjab Government, an area of 3.39 lakh hectare was cultivated under the cotton crop during 2015-16. Approximately, all the cultivated area was affected. Further, they have informed that a compensation of ₹ 669 crore has been released for the loss of cotton crop.