

Sl. No.	State	2016-17
25.	Telangana	108.00
26.	Tripura	14.85
27.	Uttar Pradesh	265.875
28.	Uttarakhand	99.00
29.	West Bengal	203.25
	TOTAL	3608.25

Whitefly attack on crops

2947. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a high level committee for monitoring and checking the spread of whitefly attack on crops, particularly on cotton in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government is taking to prevent damage to the crops and advise growers to spray only recommended chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted a committee under the Co-ordination of Additional Plant Protection Adviser, Directorate of Plant Protection, and Quarantine and Storage, for continuous monitoring of whitefly. The committee has the following term of References (TORs):

- (i) The committee will develop comprehensive advisories, which inter alia, include harmonising of all the advisories disseminated through various institutions.
- (ii) To ensure timely and regular dissemination of advisories through electronic, print and mobile platforms to stakeholders.
- (iii) The Committee will sensitize the State to undertake special drive to check supply of misbranded pesticides.

(b) Regular advisories are disseminated by Directorate of Plant Protection, and Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S) to the States on efficacious management of pest/

disease. These advisories, *inter alia*, includes list of pesticides recommended by Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC) against pests/disease. In addition Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) under DPPQ&S conduct farmers field schools to educate farmers on the proper application of pesticides. Further, State Governments have been sensitized to organize regular meetings of State Pest Surveillance and Advisory Units (SPSAU) and District Pest Surveillance and Advisory Units (DPSAU) to monitor pest and diseases. States have also been advised regularly through video conference to ensure timely availability of pesticides and bio-pesticides approved and recommended by Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC).

Production of new varieties of moong and arhar

2948. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that short duration Arhar and Moong varieties have been developed which can substantially increase the production of these pulses in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken to promote these varieties of pulses in Maharashtra and other pulses producing States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): (a) Yes Sir, seven short duration (140-160 days) high yielding varieties of arhar namely Phule T 12, BDN 711, PA 291, VLA-1, Pusa 2001, Pusa 2002 and CO-7 and nine short duration (60-65 days) high yielding moong varieties namely HUM 16, IPM 02-3, PKV AKM 4, Pusa 0672, IPM 02-14, MH 421, SML 832, CO-8 and Shalimar Moong-2 have been released for different states of the country during last 10 years by National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities. Besides higher yield, these varieties are suitable for multiple cropping systems and newer niches.

(b) In order to promote these varieties, the NARS is regularly producing their breeder seed for further multiplication to make available quality seeds to the farmers of different states including Maharashtra. For augmenting the availability of quality seeds of pulses, 100 seed-hubs have been established during 2016-17 across 22 states including 8 seed hubs in Maharashtra.