

Pink bollworm attack on Bt. Cotton crops

680. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton is still being grown in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the pink bollworm is attacking the Bt. Cotton crops, causing loss of yields; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to control pink bollworm in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The cultivation of Bt. cotton is preferred over non-Bt cotton in the country. During 2016-17, as per third advance estimates 108 lakh hectares area was planted under cotton including 86.39 lakh hectare (79.99%) under Bt. cotton and 21.61 lakh (20.01%) under Non Bt. Cotton. State-wise detail of area coverage under Bt cotton and non Bt. cotton during 2016-17 is given in the table below:—

(Area in lakh hectare)			
Major Cotton Growing State	Bt. Cotton	Non Bt. Cotton	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4.38	0.33	4.71
Gujarat	19.24	4.81	24.05
Haryana	3.77	1.93	5.70
Karnataka	2.95	1.71	4.66
Madhya Pradesh	5.39	0.60	5.99
Maharashtra	32.30	5.70	38.00
Odisha	-	1.36	1.36
Punjab	2.43	0.42	2.85
Rajasthan	2.87	1.84	4.71

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	0.79	0.58	1.37
Telangana	12.27	1.83	14.10
Others	-	0.50	0.50
ALL INDIA	86.39	21.61	108.00

(b) and (c) Incidence of infestation of Pink Bollworm in some pockets of cotton growing States especially Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been reported. The steps have already been taken *viz.*, conducting frontline demonstration at farmers field on modern production and protection technologies including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by major cotton producing States and ICAR institutes / SAUs. Besides, trainings on latest production and protection technologies including management of pests. The States take steps for Crop Pest Surveillance, Online Pest Monitoring System, Issuing Advisory from time to time for management of pests including pink bollworm in cotton.

Dependency on agriculture

681. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of the population depends on agriculture;

(b) if so, what is their percentage;

(c) what is this figure in China, Indonesia, Israel, Brazil, etc.; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to ease this pressure on agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) and (b) As per Census 2011, conducted by the Registrar General of India, there are about 263 million agricultural workers in the country, comprising of 119 million cultivators and 144 million agricultural labourers. This constitutes about 55 per cent of the total workforce in the country.

(c) As per the information available with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the share of agriculture in total employment in different countries is given below.