GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1298
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/12/2024

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS PINK BOLLWORMS (PBW)

1298. SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

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

(a)whether Government has assessed the impact of Pink Bollworms (PBW) on the production of cotton in Haryana and Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof;
(b)the funds allocated and utilised for the 'Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM);
(c)mode of dissemination of Pink Bollworm Management Strategies under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since 2020, year-wise; and
(d)the findings of the pilot project undertaken to combat Pink Bollworms (PBW) by the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a):   Yes sir. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare(DA&FW) has assessed the impact of Pink Bollworm (PBW) by conducting field visits at regular interval through the officials of Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMCs), ICAR institutes and State Agriculture departments in cotton growing districts of Rajasthan and Haryana. According to ICAR-CICR, Regional station, Sirsa the incidences of pink bollworm (PBW) was observed to be low during Kharif season 2024.

(b) & (c):   A project titled 'Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM): Dissemination of Pink Bollworm Management Strategies' has been approved by Government of India since 2018-2019 under NFSM with an objective to disseminate Pink Bollworm Management Strategies integrating several multiple strategies during different growth stages of cotton crop to combat it. The details of fund allocated and utilised under Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) during 2020-2024 is placed at Annexure-I.

(d):   DA&FW has implemented a pilot project for monitoring PBW infestation in cotton crop using Artificial Intelligence (AI) based pheromone trap during 2024-25 in three districts of Punjab namely Mansa, Bhatinda and Sri Muktsar Sahib at 18 locations by recording insects moth attracted to pheromone trap. The pilot project for the first time demonstrated the potential of cutting-edge AI technology for real time monitoring and management of pink bollworm adopting area wide approach. The key findings of the pilot project are as below:

- Stacking cotton crop residues near fields acted as source of initial inoculum of pest infestation. Average trap catch was higher at 152 moths/trap/week in the areas stacked with cotton residue compared to 46 moths/trap/week in the non-stacked area.
- Farmers, extension personnel of state agriculture department and state university received timely pest alerts on their mobiles leading to better awareness on the real time pest situation and informed spray decision.
- AI trap surveillance led to an estimated reduction of 38% in pesticide use.

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Details of fund allocated and utilised under Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) during 2020-2024

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No	Financial Year	Budget allocation	Utilization
1.	2020-21	264.00	177.76
2.	2021-22	235.52	200.58
3.	2022-23	250.00	151.72
4.	2023-24	250.00	96.55
5.	2024-25	255.00	60.00 (as on 22.11.24)

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