

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1560

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th DECEMBER, 2023

WEEDS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

1560. SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the congress Grass (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is an invasive weed which still affects the agriculture sector in the country, if so, the detail thereof;
- (b) whether any other existing invasive weeds are affecting the agriculture sector; and
- (c) if so, the detail thereof and the methods to control/eradicate these weeds in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

- (a): Yes. The congress Grass (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is an invasive weed and affects the production of agriculture crops. Parthenium is a threat to cropped and non-cropped areas in entire India because of its high tolerance to extreme edaphic and climatic conditions. Parthenium not only competes with cultivated crops but also depletes the nutrient pool of the soil in which it grows. The overall average infestation of Parthenium varied in different states of India. Grain yield reductions due to infestation of Parthenium in agricultural crops viz., rice, wheat, maize, pigeonpea, blackgram, sorghum etc., are known.

(b): Yes, several invasive alien weeds are identified which also affect agriculture in the country such as Lantana (*Lantana camara*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Mikania (*Mikania micrantha*), Chromolaena (*Chromolaena odorata*), Ageratum conyzoides (*Ageratum conyzoides*), Mimosa (*Mimosa invisa*), Eupatorium (*Eupatorium odoratum*), Water fern (*Salvinia molesta*) and Cuman ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*).

(c): Weeds are difficult to manage effectively using single weed management method (mechanical, chemical, biological and cultural control tactics) as weeds are more aggressive, adaptive and persistent. To control/eradicate the weeds in the country the holistic approach involving different and integrated weed management practices are recommended. A summary of economic weed management strategies in India has revealed that herbicides in combination with hand weeding were most economical. Further, the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) through its 36 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across 28 States and 2 UTs conducts various training programmes, such as Farmers Field Schools (FFS), 2 & 5 days Human Resource Development (HRD) programmes and 30 days Season long training Programme (SLTP) for training of farmers, State Agriculture Department Officers and pesticide dealers on latest Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to manage the weeds, insects and diseases of crops.