

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 14.12.2000
ANSWERED ON
SUICIDE BY GROUNDNUT FARMERS .

2687

Shri K. Rahman Khan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government are aware that some groundnut farmers of Kurnool, Ananthpur, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Mahboobnagar Districts of Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide following crop failure due to attack by `trips virus` ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that preventive steps to stop the spread of the virus were not taken in time; and
- (c) if so, what are the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

- (a): Government have not received any report of Groundnut farmers in Kurnool, Ananthapur, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Mahboobnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh committing suicide following crop failure due to attack of `Thrips Virus` .
- (b)&(c): The following preventive steps were taken to stop the spread of virus:
- (i) Constitution of survey teams to create awareness among the farmers for undertaking control measures;
 - (ii) Training to farmers and other field functionaries in the proper diagnosis of the disease and the vector;
 - (iii) Publicity through Akashwani, Doordarshan and Visual display in Cinema hall as well as distribution of pamphlets, etc. about the management of the disease; and
 - (iv) Application of pesticides viz. Monocrotophos mixed with crude Neem oil for controlling the insect vectors.