

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 30, 1992/Sravana 8, 1914
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Use of Banned Pesticides

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*325. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRIBOLLA BULLIRAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides banned in other countries are presently used for agriculture and other purposes in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such pesticides;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ban their use;

(d) whether pests and vectors resistant to pesticides have been effectively controlled by neem-based pesticides; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to promote the neem-based pesticides and popularise organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to

(e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Some of the pesticides which are banned in some other countries are being used in our country.

(b) As per available information, names of such pesticides are given in the annexure.

(c) Government keeps on reviewing the continued usage of pesticides banned or restricted in other countries either through Registration Committee or specially appointed Expert Committees, for taking appropriate action.

(d) Neem based pesticides have been found to be effective against Mustard aphid, American Bollworm, Red Flour beetle, Khapra beetle which have developed resistance to some of the chemical pesticides.

(e) Major steps taken in this regard are as under:-

1. Registration of neem based pesticides has been facilitated.
2. Use of neem based pesticides is being encouraged under the Integrated Pest Management Programme.
3. Use of neem based pesticides is being promoted through extension media.
4. Use of bio-fertilisers, organic manures and non-chemical methods of pest control are being encouraged to promote organic farming.

Annexure

List of Pesticides Banned in some Countries but being used in India

S.No.	Pesticide
1.	Alachlor
2.	Aldicarb
3.	Aldrin (To be banned w.e.f. 1.1.1994)
4.	BHC
5.	Benomyl
6.	Calcium Cyanide
7.	Captan
8.	Carbaryl
9.	Chlorbanzilate
10.	Copper acetoarsenite
11.	DDT
12.	Dicofol
13.	Dieldrin
14.	Diuron
15.	EDB
16.	Endosulfan
17.	Ethyl Mercury Chloride
18.	Fenarimol
19.	Lindane
20.	Menazon
21.	Methomyl
22.	Methyl Parathion
23.	Monocrotophos

S.No.	Pesticide
24.	Nicotine Sulphate
25.	Oxyflourfen
26.	PMA
27.	Paraquat Dichloride
28.	Phorate
29.	Phosphamidon
30.	Sodium Methane Arsonate
31.	Tetradifon
32.	Thiometon
33.	Triazophos
34.	Tridemorph
35.	Zinc Phosphide
36.	Ziram
37.	2,4-D
38.	Sodium Cyanide

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister it appears that in India there are merely 38 such pesticides that have been banned by all other countries of the world. This is so because these pesticides are considered toxic causing so many diseases. But these 38 pesticides are still being used in India. I would like to know that even after being rejected by other countries of the world and even after the DDC and B.S.C. being declared poisonous by the experts why those 38 pesticides are still being used in India? As per the observation of the expert 0.5 mg. of the pesticide is consumed by an Indian alongwith food which is fourtimes more than what is taken by

Americans and the Englishmen.

[Translation]

[English]

The conclusion of Dr. K.M. Malhotra, President, Society of Pesticide is that it is slow poisoning not only for the present but also for the future generations.

[Translation]

May I know whether it is a fact that ever since 1975 300 men of Chikr nagalur in Karnataka have picked up different diseases because of rheumatism and that their lives have been endangered because of the use of the D.D.T. and B.S.C.? The second part of the question is whether it is true that according to an observation made by the Marathwara University most of the breast tumor cases are due to the intake of D.D.T and B.Sc. alongwith with food. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that these pesticides are not banned in all the countries. These are used in some countries while in some countries these are not used. We also formed an expert - Committee in 1984 under the Chairmanship of Shri Banerjee. The Government is working according its guidelines and 8 pesticides have already been banned. So far as the use of D.D.T. and B.S.C. is concerned special investigation is being conducted to arrive at a definite conclusion. These are special things whose behaviour varies according to the varying climate of different countries. The hon. Member is right when he says that poisonous pesticides should be banned. The Government has formed a committee to look into the matter and its recommendations would be followed. The Government has banned 8 pesticides.

[English]

They are DDT; BHC; sodium Cyanide; Captafol; Aluminium Phosphide; Methy. Bromide; Chloro Benzilate and Dieldrin

Their use has been restricted and it has been made clear as to where they can be used. Their use by common people or in general cultivation has been banned. They are in restricted use and the Government is undertaking an investigation for the second time to find a solution.

SHRIGUMAN MAL LODHA: In part (d) of my question I have asked that pesticides based on natural fertiliser like cow dung and based on neem are manufactured in India. Now, what is being done to safeguard our farmers and the people of India from other pesticides and to encourage the manufacturing of pesticides based on neem?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 1986 data of Madras Research Institute reveals that one crore and ten lakh useful cows and oxen were slaughtered. I would like to point out that a great amount of fertiliser or say, cow dung or natural fertiliser could be had by saving those oxen and cows? Similarly, will be hon. Minister inform as to what the Government is doing to encourage the use of natural pesticides by banning the imported pesticides?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The second part is not allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to what has been stated by the hon. Member to boost the cultivation of neem.

[English]

- (i) Registration Committee has made an exception to allow commercialisation during the pendency of provisional registration granted for Neem based pesticides with a view to popularise them for control of pests of agricultural importance.

- (ii) Neem based pesticides are also being promoted under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for effective control of pests.
- (iii) Data requirements for registration of neem based pesticides has been simplified to encourage entrepreneurs for easy availability of such botanical pesticides for the benefit of farmers and the environment.
- (iv) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi is regularly bringing out a 'NEEM NEWSLETTER' on quarterly basis for faster dissemination of promising results on the bioefficacy of such pesticides for the benefit of Extension Functionaries as well.

Use of Biocides

- (i) Registration Committee has granted registration for *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t) - a Biocide for the control of pests of Cabbage, Cauliflower, Tomato, and Cotton and Caster.
- (ii) The Registration Committee has already allowed commercialisation of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t) during the pendency of provisional registration. This is again an exception to the normal norms for commercialisation.
- (iii) The Registration Committee has also simplified the data requirements for grant of registration for such Biocides.
- (iv) Use of Biocide is being promoted under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for

adoption of such pest control chemicals by the farmers in a faster manner.

The application of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to permit the use of two biocides viz., *Bacillus Thuringiensis* and *Bacillus sphericus*. is under consideration of the Registration Committee.

[Translation]

Besides, we also want to encourage the use of such friendly pesticides which kill the pests and thereby help the growth of plants. In fact Integrated Programme is one of control. We use that. We have to see how to use the pesticides taking 40 hectare plot of land as a unit, so that, we don't need other pesticides and we survive only because of it. A research work is on progress at a brisk pace as to how to use manure fertiliser and bio-gas in farming.

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Guman Mal Lodha has mentioned that out of these 38 insecticides, three items - BGC, DDT and EMC - are highly poisonous. Even if there are traces of this in the D. oil brand, they are not prepared to feed the animals in the foreign countries because the milk and the meat will get contaminated and they will be harmful for health. This hydro carbon pesticides are cheap and even if you restrict the usage, the farmer will use the cheapest available pesticides and they will spray them on grapes and vegetables which will be harmful for human beings.

So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to see that these items are banned as early as possible.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take into consideration all what the hon. Member has said and I think we have already put them under restrictive use. I have set up a new Committee to look into whether we can completely ban them and I

hope we will do it at the earliest. But one thing I must tell you - this might be interesting to you - that we use about 270 grams per hectare of insecticides in India, America uses 570 grams, Japan uses nine kilograms and Italy uses thirteen kilograms. So, in that context, we are rather on a safer footing.

[Translation]

SHRILAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply itself speaks of the seriousness of the situation. I fail to understand as to how the 38 banned pesticides are still being used in India. The hon. Minister states that these 38 pesticides are not banned throughout the world, some are banned in some particular countries while some other pesticides are banned in some other countries. It is possible. But the fact is that we are using them while several other countries have banned them. Is economy the only consideration for the continuation of their use? Are they being used because they are comparatively cheap and is it for economic reasons alone that they are being used disregarding their serious impact on health. I would like to know the reason as to how the Expert Committee endorsed the continuation of their use and I would also like to know as to what Expert Committee was formed and in which year was it formed and whether any Expert Committee was formed after 1986? And if a Committee has been formed, will the Government undertake a reconsideration by a perusal of the list. There may be some such pesticides that have been banned after 1986?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: A committee was formed in 1984? Now one more Committee been formed in 1991. I would like to give the reasons for that.

"The major reasons for ban/restriction on use of pesticides vary from country to country. Hence, no uniform norms are applicable to all the countries. The countries have banned/restricted the use of pesticides for one or more of the reasons such as negative health

reasons, availability of safer but constillier pesticides, non-acceptability of certain pesticides due to climatic reasons peculiar to a particular country, emergence of pest resistance to pesticides, etc.

Some of the pesticides which are banned/ restricted in use in other countries, are still being used in our country because of the following reasons."

These are the reasons for which we use them, I fully share Advaniji's concern and we will try to do away with the pesticides which are not good to our health and to the environment.

[Translation]

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has told that the use of pesticides should be banned. But there can be no cultivation without the use of pesticides. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that when our crops like wheat, rice are sold on cheap rates why then the pesticides are not provided to us on cheap rate?

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: Shri Harchand Singh is quite right.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a reply should come from the hon. Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As per rules, it is a sort of assurance.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently during the month of June, I read an article in the "Economic Times", in which there is a mention about the research work held in Germany on the subject: "Neem Bharatiya mool ka briksha hai-iske vibhinna upayog". Will the Government make arrangements to conduct a study on the uses of margosa tree, because this tree

is not only useful for agriculture but also for health?

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: I have replied your question and the Government is working whole heartedly on your suggestion.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, replying to this question, the hon. Minister has stated that 38 pesticides have been banned. Some medicines are banned in one form or the other in other countries, but they are frequently in use in our country. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why our scientists are lagging behind in testing those pesticides while other countries have gone advance in that field and declaring them as dangerous, those countries have banned those pesticides in the interest of human life. Our specialists could not be able to find out the dangerous elements used in those pesticides. Had they discovered it earlier we would have saved ourselves from the loss which we have suffered due to those medicines. I would like to know whether our specialists will find a solution as soon as possible by conducting research on those pesticides.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, yes, the scientists are seeking a solution.

[English]

They are separating the genes from Himalayan plants and introducing them to control the pests.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a saying in our villages 'the disease aggravated with every dose of the medicine.' This is the situation regarding human lives in India. In its report, the W.H.O has stated that the antibiotics which have already been prohibited in other countries are so much in use in India that they will affect our next generation too. 38 such pesticides are also used here, as should have not been used. The hon. Minister has said that the Government has banned some of them. I would like to know

the percentage of those banned pesticides and the percentage of the good quality pesticides which are manufactured in Germany from the margosa tree as has been mentioned by an hon. Member Shri Surya Narayan Yadav. Keeping in view this ratio, will the Government lay an emphasis on the use of fertilizers based on margosa tree or cow-dung in the interest of our country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member Shri Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav has said... (Interruptions) No, he is both Ram and Lakhan, I am only Ram. He is Lakhan also. He is both Ram and Lakhan. Therefore, we have brotherly relation. Keeping in view that relationship I would like to tell him that the Government is paying its full attention to the utilities of the margosa tree. We would like that every effort should be made for the publicity of margosa tree, for welfare of human beings, because when I went to abroad and talked about it, I found that the people of those countries are taking much interest in the uses of margosa tree. Therefore, more works is being done on the use of margosa tree. As I have said that we have already given extra special concession for registration and we would like to increase its use as far as possible because we also know it is not good to live by leading an artificial life. We should stand on our feet and should depend more on nature. This is our attitude and effort in this regard.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask another thing from the hon. Minister that despite banning 38 items, pesticides and other things are being supplied in the market to our farmers because I belong to such a district where per capita consumption of pesticides is the maximum in the country. There are such cases in my district in which adulterated and mixed pesticides worth crores of rupees were supplied in the market and some persons were arrested and cases were also filed against others. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken against such persons.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of the question. It should arise out of the main question. It is not allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state that betel farming is being done in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and some other adjacent areas for long time but beetal harvest is being destroyed due to insects for the last three years. I would like to know that the names of 38 pesticides, which figure in this list are banned in other countries. And as per my information these pesticides are ineffective. The Government has constituted a committee in this regard. I would like to know whether any conclusion drawn by this committee has come to your notice if so, what is the solution of this problem, so that beetal harvesting can be saved and the decrease in the export of beetal leaf which has been suffering for the last three years, can be done away.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since hon. Member brought it in my notice I have referred it to the committee. Let us wait for its findings. I am very particular to take action in the matter otherwise how we can go without it. It has become a necessity now-a-days.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 326. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar. I think this has to be replied to by the Ministry of Finance and we are proposing to postpone it to 6.8.92.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, it was a very simple question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you insist I will allow, but if you do not get the information, I will leave it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: It appears that there is something mysterious.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow if the Minister is ready to reply. But if you do not get full information; then there is no use.

Ban on Use of Timber

*327. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have banned the use of timber in construction of Government buildings by CPWD;

(b) whether the Government propose to advice the State Governments and private builders also in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). With a view to conserve wood, guidelines have already been issued for encouraging use of alternative materials in building construction. Recently, the matter was considered by the Government and it was decided that, after collecting details of alternative items of acceptable standard and durability available in the market, the Central Public Works Department shall use such substitutes from 1st April, 1993. Use of wood would stand banned from this date.

2. A communication has been sent to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/Union Territories impressing upon them to take similar steps and to advice the State Level housing and building