

Damage to Wheat Crops in Punjab by Weedicides

2101. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the weedicides in the 75 per cent formulation groups have caused considerable damage to the standing wheat crops in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Immediately after receiving the information, a team consisting of the experts from the Central Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and storage, the State Department of Agriculture, Punjab and Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, was deputed to study the situation. The Team surveyed the areas of the wheat crop alleged to have been damaged due to application of weedicide (isoproturon 75% WP).

The team observed that the general condition of the wheat crop in the districts of Ludhiana and Ropar was very good and there was satisfactory control of *Phalaris minor* weeds to the advantage of the yield factor. There were no adverse reports from other districts, according to the State Government. Out of the total area of 15 lakh acres on which Isoproturon (the formulations 75% and 50% W.P.) had been used, damage was reported in about 150 acres partially. Weedicides were applied a few days before the rains on the 25th and 26th December, 1985, in these fields. Due to rains, weedicides were washed away with the rain water and the said water stagnated in certain low lying patches which led to heavy concentration of pesticides resulting in localised damage to the crops. Similarly, some damage was caused

to the wheat in sandy soil due to percolation of the rain water having high concentration of the weedicides to the root zone.

Partially even the affected crops recovered after a few days.

Nothing has been found wrong with the weedicides used.

Delay in Granting Assistance for Natural Calamities

2102. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have complained of inordinate delay in release of Central grants to meet the situation arising out of natural calamities like drought, flood etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Union Government to release the funds immediately so that the relief work may not suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). According to the scheme of financing the relief expenditure as laid down by the successive Finance Commissions, every State Government has got certain amount known as 'Margin Money' at their disposal for meeting the expenditure necessitated by natural calamities. The existing pattern of assistance is based on the recommendations of the VIII Finance Commission. In case, State is unable to meet the relief expenditure out of Margin Money, they submit a Memorandum seeking Central assistance. On receipt of a Memorandum, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team is deputed for making an on the spot study of the situation and to recommend the quantum of assistance. The report of the Team is then considered by High Level Committee on Relief and on the recommendations of that Committee, sanction of Central assistance is issued. However, to expedite relief, Ways and Means advances are sanctioned to the State for meeting the situation after taking into account their Ways and Means position, pending the issue of final sanction of Central assistance.