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STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS)

Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Insecticides & Pesticides – promotion and development including safe usage – licensing regime for insecticides' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals)

FIRST REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2024/Agrahayana 1946 (saka)

CC&F NO. 181

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Presented to Lok Sabha on ……. , 2024

Laid in Rajya Sabha on …,…….. 2024

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2024/Agrahayana 1946 (saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(2024-2025)

Shri Azad Kirti Jha - Chairperson

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2. Shri Brijmohan Agrawal
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5. Shri Bharatsinhji Shankarji Dabhi
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26. Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy
27. Dr. Kalpana Saini
28. Shri Arun Singh
29. Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh
30. Shri Tejveer Singh
31. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Suman Arora - Additional Secretary
2. Ms. Miranda Ingudam - Director
3. Shri Kulvinder Singh - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee, do present on their behalf this First Report on Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Forty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Insecticides & Pesticides – promotion and development including safe usage – licensing regime for insecticides' pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

2. The Forty Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 2023. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers furnished their replies on …….. Indicating Action Taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Sixth Report. The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Report at their sitting held on ……, 2024.

3. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix-II.**

4. For ease of reference, Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report**.**

New Delhi;
…December, 2024
…..Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

AZAD KIRTI JHA
CHAIRPERSON,
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS.

CHAPTER – I

REPORT

This Report deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Insecticides &Pesticides- Promotion and Development Including Safe Usage- Licencing Regime for Insecticides' pertaining to the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).

1.2 The Forty-Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2023. It contained 20 Observations / Recommendations. Replies of the Government in respect of all the recommendations have been received and are categorized as follows:

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Rec. Sl. No. 1,4,5,6,7,8,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19 and 20

(Total =16)

Chapter II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Rec. Sl. No. Ni (Total-00)

Chapter III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Rec. Sl. No. 2,3,9 and 11 (Total-04)

Chapter IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are of interim nature:

Rec. Sl. No. Nil

(Total-00)

Chapter V

1.3 The Committee desire that the Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to them at the earliest.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with some of their earlier Observations/Recommendations which either require reiteration or merit further comments.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

Development of pesticides

1.5 Regarding development of pesticides in the country, the Committee had recommended as follows:

> "The Committee note that Pesticides prevent the loss of agricultural products fromdiseases and attack of pests. The locusts attack in the year 2019-20 and 2020-2021 was controlled successfully when HIL (India) Ltd supplied approximately 600 KC of Malathion Technical to the Ministry of Agriculture for locust control programme. The Committee have been informed that the food-grain production has increased from 52 million tonnes in the year 1951-52 to 300 billion tonnes in 2021-22 and among various factors which have helped in increasing the agriculture production in the country, pesticides have played a vital role. The Committee appreciate that the Department has been taking various measures for promotion and development of pesticides like (i) playing the role of promoters for growth of the Industry (ii) taking up inter-ministerial coordination to sort out the problems of chemicals and petrochemicals sector (iii) extending financial support under Chemicals Promotion Development Scheme(CPDS) for organizing seminars, conferences and training programmes to create awareness among the farmers about the judicious use of agrochemicals and fertilizers." The Committee take note of the fact that while pesticides play a vital role in increasing the agricultural production, their extensive use can, directly or indirectly, pollute air, water, soil and overall ecosystem thereby causing serious health hazards for living beings. The Committee, therefore, recommend that measures being taken by the Department for the promotion and development of pesticides should be stringently implemented for the balanced growth of pesticides in the country."

1.6 In their Action Taken Note to the Committee the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have submitted as follows:

> "It is informed that the Department intends to promote judicious and safe use of Pesticides by conducting farmers training and sensitization programmes. Since 2016, Department has been organizing farmer training programs under the Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme(CPDS)."
>
> The details of Farmers Training Programmes conducted by the Department during 2021-22 to2023-24 are given below:

S.No.	Financial Year	No. of Training Programmes	No. of Participants
1.	2021-22	22	6678
2.	2022-23	35	7484
3.	2023-24	25	9972

1.7 **The Committee had noted earlier that the Department had initiated various measures for promotion and development of pesticides like (i) playing the role of promoters for growth of the Industry (ii) taking up inter-ministerial coordination to sort out the problems of chemicals and petrochemicals sector (iii) extending financial support under Chemicals Promotion Development Scheme(CPDS) for organizing seminars, conferences and training programmes to create awareness amongst the farmers about judicious use of agrochemicals and fertilizers. However, in the Action Taken Reply the Department has submitted that it intends to promote judicious and safe use of Pesticides by conducting farmers training and sensitization programmes. Since 2016, Department has been organizing farmer training programs under the Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme (CPDS). The Department has furnished details of Training programmes organised for farmers during the last three financial years and the number of Participants too. However the Action Taken Reply is silent about the other two measures initiated by the Department for promotion and development of pesticides like playing the role of promoters for growth of the Industry and taking up inter-ministerial coordination to sort out the problems of Chemicals and Petrochemicals sector. The Committee desire that the Department should also furnish the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken under these two measures also.**

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

<u>Less consumption of pesticides</u>

1.8 The Committee made the following recommendation regarding less consumption of pesticides: -

> "The Committee note that the Pesticide Industry in India has a size of 50,000 crore and generic Pesticides are in demand worldwide. There is tremendous potential in the Pesticides industry, which needs to be tapped. The Committee, however, regret to note that consumption of the pesticides in the country is 0.5 kg per hectare whereas the consumption in some other countries is as high as 17 Kg per hectare, even though India is the second largest producer of agricultural products. The Department has clarified thatcountries like China and Japan have intensive agriculture—green house as well as poly house agriculture in which a number of crops are grown in and due to intensification of agriculture and the 'spring technology'. These countries have a lead over India. Besides, the management of intensive agriculture in these countries is relatively better. Therefore, these countries use more pesticides. The Committee feel that significantly lower penetration levels of pesticides in India

as compared to other countries like China clearly suggest that the market for pesticides is still largely unpenetrated with huge room for future growth in the country. Furthermore, with rising population, food demand is expected to continue to increase in the coming years and pesticides will play a key role in increasing the average crop yields per hectare.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee feel that it is high time that the Department acts promptly to enhance the use of agrochemicals/pesticides in the country. The Committee recommend that the Department should study the agricultural practices of countries like Japan and China for suitably adopting the same in India. There is an urgent need for the Government to take initiatives to give a boost to the Pesticides industry. Increasing availability of pesticides and low interest rates of farm loans would encourage farmers to use more pesticides in order to improve crop yields. Initiatives should be taken to increase awareness of Pesticides among farmers. Farmers should be educated on the right usage of Pesticides in terms of quantity, the right application methodology and appropriate chemicals to be used for identified pest problems, etc."

1.9 In their Action Taken Note to the Committee the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have submitted as follows:

"The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed that the use of Pesticides depends on several factors like area under cultivation, type of crop, cropping intensity, agro climatic conditions, soil condition, pests (e.g. weed, insect and disease) situation etc. However, with the objective of educating, orienting and training of farming community about the judicious use of pesticides and use as per the prescriptions given in the label and leaflets, Central and State Governments through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) and Farmers Field Schools, ensure that farmers are provided right knowledge/ information about recommended pesticides use.

Further, State Governments and Union Territories report data related to consumption of pesticides to Central Government. As per the provided data, the trend of consumption of chemical pesticides has varied from year to year and State to State. The state wise details on consumption of chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides is attached at **Annexure-I and II,** (quantities are in MT) respectively."

Also, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has been organizing Farmers Training Programme with the objective of increasing awareness about the efficacy of pesticides and the need for their increased usage judiciously to boost productivity of the crops."

1.10 The Committee recommended that in the view of the huge difference between the consumption of pesticides in our Country and the quantity of pesticides being consumed by other Countries that the Department should study the agricultural practices of other Countries for suitably adopting the same in our Country. However, the Department in its Action Taken Reply has merely submitted information on responsible use of pesticides and farmers training programmes and is silent on the specific recommendation of the Committee on adaptation of agricultural good practices from other countries after a study. The Committee therefore reiterate their earlier recommendation for a detailed research on the aspect and proposed action taken of the Department in this regard.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

Indian Chemical Industry

1.11 The Committee made the following with regard to Indian Chemical Industry:

> "The Committee note that the Indian Chemical Industry stands 6th globally in sales values, its present market size is around US $ 220 billion and it is expected to reach US $ 300 billion by the year 2025. Further, in the agrochemicals sector, India is the 4th largest producer and exporter and in dyes-stuffs India is 2nd largest producer and exporter. Moreover, it contributes 9.40% of manufacturing gross value added and 1.69 % of National Gross value added. Also, it employs around four million people directly and indirectly. However, it is worrisome that Indian Chemical Industry is the net importer and in financial year 2020-21, the trade deficit stood at Rs. 1.75 lakh crore. The main reason was the non-availability of feedstocks and mining agents.
>
> In view of the foregoing, the Committee believe that Indian Chemical Industry has a potential to grow further and therefore would earnestly desire that the Government should extend all possible help and assistance to resolve the issues being faced by the Indian Chemical Industry. Though the Department, in order to reduce dependence on imports, is working on introducing the PLI scheme in the chemicals sector for those chemicals which are majorly imported from a single source and have multiple uses, the Committee recommend that the Government act with urgency to minimize the trade deficit in the near future."

1.12 In their action taken note of the Committee the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have stated as follows:

> "In order to promote the manufacturing of chemicals and petrochemicals in the Country, Department has set up three Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in the State of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. These PCPIRs have attracted investment of Rs. 2,43,027 Crore.

In order to protect the domestic industry from the unfair trade practices, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals makes BIS Standards mandatory. Also, in consultation with domestic industry, Department recommends to rationalize the duty to D/o Revenue on imported products for providing level playing field to the domestic industry"

1.13 **The Committee had noted that the Indian Chemical Industry has a potential to grow further and had requested the Department to extend all possible help and assistance to resolve the issue being faced by the Indian Chemical Industry. The Committee had also noted that in order to reduce dependence on imports, the Department was working on introducing the PLI scheme in the Chemical Sector for those chemicals which are majorly imported from a single source and have multiple uses. In their Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted that for the promotion of manufacturing of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in the Country, the Department has set up three Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) besides making BIS Standards mandatory and rationalizing the duty on imported products. However, the Department has not briefed the Committee of the steps taken by them to reduce dependence on imports and also about introducing the PLI Scheme in this regard. The Department's reply is silent on any action/initiative proposed to be taken by the Department to minimize the trade deficit of Rs. 1.75 Lakh Crore. The Committee reiterate its recommendation and desire that the Committee may be apprised of the concrete steps taken/ proposed to be taken to minimize the trade deficit in the timelines thereof.**

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

Consumption of Agrochemicals

1.14 The Committee made the following regarding the Consumption of Agrochemicals:

"The Committee note that Agrochemicals are chemicals that are used to control pests, pathogens, etc. and supply nutrients to the soil. Further, Insecticides/Pesticides are broadly termed as Agrochemicals and play a vital role in increasing agricultural productivity by protecting crops from insects, pests, fungi, weed etc. Agrochemical sector is also contributing in a big way to the GDP as well as to gross value addition manufacturing. The global market of agrochemicals is 4,50,000 crore. However, the Indian size of the agrochemicals market is about Rs. 50,000 crore. India is a net exporter of agrochemicals. A perusal of the country-wise consumption of Agrochemicals *inter-alia* reveals that the consumption of Agrochemicals in Kilo tonnes by China is 1763, USA 407, Brazil 377, Argentina 172, Canada 90, France 85, Russia 76 and their world share are 43 percent, 10 percent, 9 percent, 4 percent, 2 percent, 2 percent, 2 percent respectively, whereas the consumption of Agrochemicals in India in Kilo tonnes is just 58 and its world share is just 1 percent. The Committee desire to know the reasons for this huge difference in consumption of Agrochemicals between India and other countries. The Committee would further like to be apprised of the concrete

steps being taken to increase the consumption of agrochemicals in India and to increase its world share."

1.15 In their action taken note, the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) have stated as Under:

"The Government has implemented several measures to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides and instead promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, emphasizing the use of bio pesticides and organic farming methods, providing training and extension services to farmers on sustainable agriculture practices, incentivizing the adoption of eco- friendly pest control methods, and strict enforcing regulations on the sale and use of pesticides to ensure their judicious application. Additionally, the government encourages research and development efforts towards developing safer and more effective alternatives to chemical pesticides, aiming to safeguard public health and the environment while promoting sustainable agricultural practices nationwide.

Government of India has taken various steps to promote the use of bio pesticides. Simplified guidelines have been formulated by Registration Committee (RC) for the registration of bio pesticides. For bio- pesticides, provisional registrations are being granted under Section 9 (3B) of the Act, along with the permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years based on the confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM) and quality verification of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL). These strategic initiatives underscore the commitment to accelerating the adoption of biopesticides in Indian agriculture, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices."

1.16 **The Committee had specifically desired to know about the concrete steps taken by the Department to increase the consumption of agrochemicals in India and also to increase its world share. In their reply the Department has submitted that they are promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, emphasizing the use of bio-pesticides and organic farming methods etc. The reply, however, does not mention any concrete steps taken by the Department. The Committee therefore reiterate their recommendation and desire that they be apprised of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the share of India not only in agrochemicals sector, but also in the area of bio pesticides and organic farming methods etc.**

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1)

Administration of Insecticides Act, 1968

2.1 The Committee note that Pesticides are regulated in the country through the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 framed thereunder. The Act is a comprehensive legislation as it regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of Insecticides with an objective to prevent risk to human beings or animals. Further, the administration of the Insecticides Act, 1968 is with the Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare (DA & FW) and kept outside the purview of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC). The DA & FW uses its attached offices like Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) for registration of Insecticides, inclusion of Chemicals/Insecticides etc. under the Act.

Keeping in view the significance of the role of DCPC in regulation of the Insecticides and Pesticides, the Committee apprehend that keeping administration of the Insecticides Act, 1968 outside the purview of the DCPC may act as a deterrent for regulation of the Insecticides and Pesticides. Also, DCPC is to take up matters of agrochemicals Industry with the DA & FW from time to time. It is, therefore, warranted that there is a requirement of close coordination between DCPC and DA & FW for the expeditious resolution of all the issues of the agrochemicals industry. The D/o Chemicals and Petrochemicals needs to take up the matter at the appropriate forum, to get allocated the administration of at least those provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, which are directly linked to the agrochemical industry. The Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken in this regard.

Reply:

The pesticides are regulated through a comprehensive legislation, Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 which are administered by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The objective of the legislation is as under:

"An Act to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human or animals, and for matters connected there with."

For effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through its attached office Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage(DPPQ&S) administers the various functions under the

Insecticide Act, 1968 like Registration of Insecticides, inclusion of chemical/insecticides in the schedule to the Act, notification of Insecticides Inspectors, amendments in Insecticides Rules etc.

As per the Allocation of Business Rules 1961(As amended upto Amendment Series no. 376, dated 3rd April, 2024), the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has been assigned thefollowing business :

"2. Insecticides (excluding the administration of Insecticides Act, 1968(46 of 1968)"

Therefore DCPC promotes the agro-chemical industry and takes up its matter with Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change on various issues raised by the industry for the resolution of the same.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 4)

Phasing out of hazardous insecticides and Pesticides

2.2 The Committee are aware that Pesticides are inherently hazardous, and among them, a relatively small number of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) cause disproportionate harm to environment and human health with acute and chronic toxicity. The Committee are happy to learn that HIL (India) Ltd along with UNIDO is currently taking up the project titled "Promoting eco- friendly crop protection solution for persistent organic pollutant and highly hazardous Pesticides reduction in Asia" under a programme named as Financing Agrochemicals Reduction and Management (FARM) programme of the Global environment Facility with the objectives (i) to minimize the use of highly hazardous Pesticides and persistent organic pollutants in agriculture (ii) to catalyze investment in the agriculture sector etc.

The Committee hope that HIL(India) Ltd. will take all advance measures to execute the aforesaid project under FARM programme with all seriousness so that its objectives are achieved. The Committee would also like the Department to extend its full support to HIL(India) Ltd. in this regard.

Reply:

The Government of India has been taking all efforts to promote use of Eco-friendly crop protection solutions to replace hazardous pesticides which may cause disproportionate harm toenvironment & human health. Accordingly, HIL (India) Ltd, in collaboration with UNIDO, is actively engaged in the "*Promoting Eco-friendly crop protection solution for persistentorganic pollutant (POP) and highly hazardous Pesticides (HHP) reduction in Asia"* project under the Financing Agrochemicals Reduction and Management (FARM) programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The objectives of these programmes are:

(i) to minimize the use of highly hazardous Pesticides and persistent organic pollutantsin agriculture
(ii) to catalyse investment in the agriculture sector etc.
(iii) to detoxify the sector by eliminating the use of the highly hazardous pesticides inagriculture.

HIL has prepared the required baseline data for the preparation of the project document. The project document is being prepared by the Global Environment Facility and upon completion and its approval, the contract shall be made. The expected budgetary support for this project isUSD 3.5 million.

HIL targets to reduce the use of HHPs and POPs in agriculture and replacing with safe alternatives such as Bio-pesticides, Neem based pesticides, etc.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5)

Regulation of Pesticides by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

2.3 The Committee note that Pesticides are being regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 framed thereunder. The DA & FW also reviews the use as well as banning of pesticides, which are reported to pose harm to human health and environment, through its Registration committee and has so far banned or phased out as many as 46 pesticides and 04 pesticides formulation besides withdrawal of registration of 08 pesticides and placing 09 pesticides under restricted use. Further, D/o Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) plays the role of promoter for the agrochemicals. The Committeeare of the strong conviction that DCPC and DA & FW need to work in close coordinationto avoid instances where the former promotes the pesticides and the later ban/discontinue their use depending upon their toxicity and harmful effects. The Committee recommend that adequate safeguards should be exercised by both the Departments engaged in regulation and promotion of pesticides and would like to be kept informed on this aspect.

Reply:

The Government of India, from time to time keeps reviewing the continued use or otherwise of those pesticides which are banned/severely restricted in other Countries of the world due to their toxic concerns or have been reported to pose harm to human health or environment in ourcountry or other countries of the world. These reviews are undertaken by constituting special committees or through the Registration Committee(RC). Based on the recommendations of such expert committees and after due consultation with Registration Committee(RC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has so far banned 49 pesticide molecules and 5 pesticide formulations for import, manufacture or sale in the country and one pesticide formulation is under phase out being in the category. In

addition, 8 pesticide registrations have been withdrawn and 9 pesticides have been placed under restricted use.

It is this Department's endeavor to work in a closely coordinated manner with D/o A&FW toharmonize the actions with respect to the harmful effect of pesticides and their banning/regulations.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6)

Organic pesticides

2.4 Organic pesticides are the pesticides derived from things in nature, which can be used to control pests. Neem based pesticides are the pest control agents manufactured from Neem extracts. The Committee note that organic and Neem based pesticides do notleave any synthetic residue in the crop produce and soil whereas the synthetic chemical pesticides leave a certain amount of pesticide residue after their application. Besides, these pesticides are usually inherently less toxic and affect only the target pest as compared to the conventional pesticides which are more toxic and may affect organisms, birds, insects and mammals as well. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that Neem based pesticides are currently manufactured by only a few organizations in the country and specific information with respect to companies in private sector planning to produce bio- pesticides is not even available with the Department. However, the Committee find some relief to learn that HIL (India) Ltd. is in the process of setting up neem based pesticides with the support of UNIDO, though initially HIL (India) Ltd. is targeting mosquito control with the purpose of vector borne diseases management including malaria. While observing the promising properties of organic and neem based pesticides, the Committee strongly desire that the Department should realize the need of the hour and explore ways and means to overcome the limitations and impediments for effective large-scale use of these pesticides so that their full potential can be realised and they are put to use by the farming community. The process of setting up of neem based pesticides by HIL (India) Ltd should be expedited and the Company with time should endeavour to diversify development of all types of organic and neem based pesticides.

Reply:

D/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed that Bio-pesticides are used as an alternative to chemical pesticides for promoting a sustainable method of development in the agriculture sector, while also reducing pollution caused by chemical pesticides.

Promoting use of Bio pesticides among the farming community is the major objective of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Indian government has

encouraged the use of bio- pesticides by taking various steps. The details are given below:

- Regular promotion of use of various bio- pesticides and bio-control agents. During survey and training programmes such as Farmer Field schools and Human Resource Development programmes bio-control agents are released in field which helps in management of various pest and pathogen.

- The bio-pesticides such as *Beauveria bassiana, Trichoderma* spp, *Metarhizium anisopliae, Metarhizium acredium, Metarhizium rileyi, Pochonia chlamydosporia, Paecilomyces lilacinus, Pseudomonas fluorescens, Isaria fumoscorosea, Bacillus* spp*, Lecanicillium lecanii* and various biocontrol agents such as *Trichogramma* spp*., Chilonus blackburni, Reduviid bug, Rhynocorism arginatus, Rhynocoris fuscipes, Chrysoperla carnea, Chrysoperla zastrowisillemi, Cryptolaemus montrouzeri, Goniozus nephantidis, Sycanuscollaris, Pseudomonas Zygogramma bicolorata, Aphelinusmali*, Assassin bug*, Blaptostethus pallescenceare* also multiplied in the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCS) bio-control laboratories and distributed to farmers. During last five years, 13122 millions of bio-control agents are produced, 6.49 lakh ha area is augmented and 37.78 lakh ha area is conserved for bio- control agents.
- Various bio-pesticides are registered and approved by Registration Committee (RC) which promotes availability of quality bio-pesticides to the farmers.
- Different alternative measures are also promoted to reduce the use of pesticides. Such measure includes use of bio-pesticides, use of entomopathogenic fungus like Metarhizium & Beauveria to control various insect pests, use of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) such as Pseudomonas spp. to control various plant pathogens, training to use insect parasitoids like Trichogramma spp. to manage lepidopteron pests, use of NPV (Nuclear Polyhydrosis Virus) to control cotton bollworm, use of natural substances such as NSKE (Neem Seed Kernel Extract) mineral oils, neem oil, herbal extracts (e.g. Neem, Tobacco, Ginger, Parthenium, Turmeric etc.) to manage various pests, use of traps such as sticky traps, pheromone traps and light traps which act as a barrier to protect the crop field by controlling the adult insects andto keep the pest population below Economic Threshold Level, thus reduce the usage ofchemical pesticide.

Simplified guidelines have been formulated by Registration Committee (RC) for the registration of bio pesticides. For bio- pesticides, provisional registrations are being granted under Section 9 (3B) of the Act, along with the permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years based on the confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR-National Bureau of

Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR- NBAIM) and quality verification of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL).

HIL(India) Ltd. is in the process of setting up neem based products with the support of UNIDO. Initially HIL(India) Ltd. is targeting to launch mosquito control products with the purpose of vector borne diseases management including malaria, and later to pesticides for agricultural use. The process of setting up of neem based products for vector borne diseases management is in process. HIL(India) Ltd. is targeted to commercialize the project in Dec-2024.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7)

Declining use of DDT

2.5 It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that the global use of DDT for vector-borne diseases has declined due to availability of new insecticide products with long residual activity periods for indoor residual spraying and next generation bed nets etc. Presently, HIL(India) Ltd. is the sole manufacturer of DDT and supplies it to the M/oHealth and Family Welfare as per their requirement. Further, DDT is regulated as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (PoP) under the Stockholm Convention which has been ratified by India. This Convention has mandated the elimination of DDT from our country by December, 2024. In order to phase out DDT, UNIDO is supporting HIL (India) Ltd. in setting up of commercial manufacturing facilities for long lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), Bti based bio-larvicides as well as Neem based botanical insecticide, larvicide, repellent and insect growth regulation (IGR). HIL (India) Ltd. is also the commercial manufacturing partner for the UNIDO project on "Development and Promotion of Non-PoPs" as an alternative to DDT and committed to complete the neem project and Bti Project before December, 2024. Moreover, DPR for Bti project is being prepared and would be completed by December, 2023 itself and expected to be commercialized in 2024.

The Committee trust that the Department/ HIL(India) Ltd. will give their utmostattention for elimination of DDT as well as preparation and commercialization of Bti project within the prescribed timelines. Further, commercial manufacturing facilities for long lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), Bti basedbio-larvicides as well as Neem based botanical insecticide, larvicide, repellent, insect growth regulation (IGR) and development of other alternatives to DDT would be expedited so that their benefits reach society in a given timeframe.

Reply:

Global use of DDT for vector-borne diseases has declined due to its regulation as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) under the Stockholm Convention. Presently, HIL(India) Ltd. is the sole manufacturer of DDT and supplies it to the M/o Health and Family Welfare as per their requirements.

The Stockholm Convention has mandated the elimination of DDT from our country. In order to phase out DDT, HIL(India) Ltd. with the support of UNIDO, is setting up of commercial manufacturing facilities for long lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs). ***Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*** **(Bti)** based biolarvicides as well as Neem based botanical products, under the project "Development and Promotion of Non-PoP alternative to DDT" are targeted to be commercialized by Dec-2024.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8)

Resolving the issues of Agro-chemicals industry

2.6 The Committee note that the Department has constituted an Advisory Forum in July, 2019 to identify the issues of agrochemicals industry that hinder its growth and development through policy interventions. The Advisory Forum provides a platform to the industry associations for raising their grievances and problems and also to boost the 'Make-in-India' initiative promotion of investments in chemicals and petrochemicals sector to meet the growing domestic demand and promote export. Though the role of the Advisory Forum thus constituted is laudable, the Committee are dis-satisfied to note that only a single meeting of the Advisory forum is being held in a calendar year. The first, second and third meetings of the Advisory forum were held on 27 August, 2019, 25 June, 2020 and 20 September, 2022, respectively. The Committee are of the view that the frequency of meetings of the Advisory forum should be increased to enable the industry associations to put forth their grievances related to agrochemicals industry. This will be of great help in identifying the impediments affecting the growth of the Industry, finding the solutions to such impediments and achieving the objective of constituting the AdvisoryForum in a true sense.

Reply:

The Advisory Forum provides a platform to the industry associations for raising their grievances and problems which is resolved in coordination with other ministries and policy measure recommendations. The main objective of the Advisory Forum is to boost 'Make in India' initiative by promotion of investments in Chemicals & Petrochemicals sector in order to meet the growing domestic demand and boost exports.

Efforts will be made to organize the meeting of Advisory forum on regular basis. Also, from time to time, various stakeholders meeting are being conducted by the Department with various associations of Industry representing to agrochemical sectors such as Crop Care Federation of India, Pesticides Manufacturers and Formulators Association of India (PMFAI), Crop Life India, FICCI, CII, Indian Chemical Council, Alkali Manufacturers Association of India(AMAI), Dyes and Pigments Manufacturers of India (DPMAI), Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers Association (CPMA) etc.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10)

Development of new generation pesticides formulation technology by IPFT

2.7 The Committee have been informed that IPFT is the only Institute of its kind devoted for the development of state-of-the-art user and environment friendly new generation pesticides formulation technology and has established a healthy support with the agrochemical industry and transfer technologies for safer, efficient and environment friendly formulations etc. Further, IPFT has also conducted field trials for bio-efficacy and phytotoxicity evaluation etc. However, it conducted 14, 15 and 18 such trials during the year 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively in the State of Haryana only. The Committee are, however, disappointed to note that IPFT has no further plans to conduct field trials in other States/UTs. The Committee are of the opinion that field trials at different places may show different results and would be useful for development of new generation pesticides formulation technology. Hence, the Committee recommend to the Department/IPFT to conduct field trials accordingly.

Reply:

IPFT is actively engaged in the development of user and environment friendly pesticide formulations since its establishment in May 1991. Till date, 80 pesticide formulations were developed and many of which are transferred to pesticide industries for commercialization.

Further IPFT conducts field trials for generation of bio-efficacy and phyto-toxicity data for registration of new pesticide formulations. During 2023-24, the IPFT has conducted as many as 31 field trails, out of which, 24 are completed and 07 in progress and are nearing completion including drone based pesticide spray field trials. Presently IPFT is having experimental farm for field trials at IPFT, Gurugram only. As advised, IPFT will explore further collaboration to expand field trials to other areas.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12)

Development of safer pesticides formulation by IPFT

2.8 The Committee are pleased to note that IPFT has developed 80 user and environment friendly pesticides formulation technologies. They have developed water disposable granules, controlled-release formulations, concentrated emulsions and micro emulsions which are being used by the industry. Apart from that, IPFT provides training on various aspects of formulation to technical personnel from pesticides industry, scientists, students, etc. Further, in collaboration with ICAR, IPFT has developed two formulations of management of orbanche weed and during the last three years, 28 research papers on formulations, analytical, chemistry and persistence studies have been published in reputed national and

international journals. While appreciating the efforts of the IPFT, the Committee would earnestly desire that IPFT should make consistent efforts to develop new pesticide formulations for the benefits of farmers, registering a bumper crop production in the country and keep the committee informed in this regard.

Reply :

IPFT is making consistent efforts to develop newer pesticide formulations for the benefit of farmers for crop protection and enhancing the crop yield. During 2023-24, five (5) formulations have been developed for the management of insects in different crops. The bio- efficacy studies are in progress. The IPFT is committed to provide utmost support to Agrochemical Industry and making consistent efforts to develop newer pesticide formulationsfor the benefit of farmers.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13)

Promoting the use of Bio-Pesticides

2.9 The Committee note that IPFT is making continuous efforts for promoting bio- botanical bacterial pesticides. Besides developing various technologies of different bio- botanical pesticides bacterial formulations, IPFT is also conducting training programmes for farmers to promote the use of botanical based crop protection products. The Committee feel that there is a considerable need to promote the use of *bio-pesticides/bio botanical pesticides* to address the serious concern posed to human life and environment by the use of *non-target toxicity,* residual consequences and challenging biodegradability of the synthetic pesticides. The Committee therefore, impress upon the Department/IPFT to vigorously take up training programmes for the farmers to educate them in this regard accordingly.

Reply:

IPFT is making continuous efforts for development of bio- botanical based formulations as safer alternative to synthetic chemical pesticides for safety of human being and the environment and minimization of pesticide residues in food products. Two bio-botanical formulations for management of insects in seed spice crops have been developed. Three new research projects with a duration of 3 years from March 2024 have been sanctioned by ICAR- National Agricultural Science Fund for development of Bio-botanical formulations for agricultural applications, weedicide formulations for management of Orobanche weed in mustard crop and microbial based formulations for agricultural waste management.

To educate the farmers, the IPFT has conducted training programmes across the country. During the year, 2023-24, a total of twenty farmers awareness programs were arranged at different States Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Assam, Ladakh to make them aware about the good agricultural practices, integrated pest management, safe and judicious use of pesticides for agricultural applications as

well as to make them aware about the preparation of pesticide formulations from the locally available plants for quick application in crop protection. More than 9000 farmers participated in these awareness programs.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14)

Setting up of four Advanced Research Centres (ARC) of IPFT

2.10The Committee note that IPFT proposes to set up four advanced research centres (ARCs) in the state of Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. A concept note in this connection, for obtaining in-principle-approval from the respective states, has been submitted to the Department. Only after the approval of the Government, ARCs can be set up and further action would be taken accordingly in the matter. The Committee recommend to the Department to expedite the examination and processing of the proposal received from IPFT and take up the matter at highest level with Government ofIndia, for its approval.

Reply:

The Department is examining the proposals and would take a decision expeditiously.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15)

Sanctioned and Actual Strength of IPFT

2.11 The Committee note that out of the total sanctioned strength of 40, the working staff strength of IPFT is just 19 which is less than 50% of the total sanctioned strength. The posts are lying vacant for various reasons, one superannuary post of establishment officer is lying vacant, 07 vacant posts have been advertised, 02 post became vacant due to retirement of incumbents of Group 'C' officers in December, 2022 and 01 post of specialist (Bioscience) is under litigation. The Committee urge the Department to take immediate steps to fill all the vacant posts in IPFT on priority basis so as to enable IPFTto discharge its function in an efficient and time bound manner.

Reply:

IPFT have initiated the process of revival of the posts as well as to fill the existing vacantposts.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16)

Loss of Rs. 30 crore to Rasayani Unit of HIL (India) Ltd. during 2021-22.

2.12 The Committee are concerned to note that the Rasayani unit of HIL (India) Ltd. suffered a massive loss of Rs. 30 crore during 2021-22. The Committee are, however, not convinced with the reply of the Government to justify the loss of Rs. 30 crore. It has been informed that order of DDT which was, Rs. 79.41 crore in the year 2020-21 declined to Rs. 43.91 crore, that is, by 50% of order value in 2020-21 resulting in reduction of sales by Rs. 35.50 crore. Similarly, the export order of DDT during 2020-21 which was Rs. 24.70 crore too declined to Rs. 6.48 crore resulting in reduction of sales by Rs 18.22 crore. As such the total reduction in sale of DDT was Rs. 53.72 crore. The Committee are unable to understand how Rasayani unit incurred a loss of Rs. 30 crore during 2021-22 when there was a reduction in sale of DDT by Rs. 53.72 crore in 2020-21. The Committee would expect factual information in this regard.

Reply:

In this regard, it is submitted that sale of DDT has been reduced by Rs.53.72 crore in the year2021-22. Global use of DDT for vector-borne diseases has declined due to its regulation as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) under the Stockholm Convention.

The trends of sale of DDT and other products of Rasayani unit are given below:

(In Rs. Cr.)

Year	Sale of DDT	Sale of other Products	Total Sale	Profit/(Loss)
2019-20	94.07	2.45	96.52	14.30
2020-21	104.11	3.75	107.86	19.27
2021-22	50.39	7.03	57.42	(30.71)

It is evident from the above table that Rasayani unit majorly depends on the production and sale of DDT. Due to reduction in sale of DDT in the F.Y. 2021-22, Rasayani Unit has incurred a loss of Rs. 30 Crore in the F.Y. 2021-22. Details of year wise sales of DDT is as follows:

(In Rs. Cr.)

Particulars	F.Y. 2020-21	F.Y. 2021-22	Reduction in Sale
DDT Domestic Sale	79.41	43.91	35.50

DDT Export Sale	24.70	6.48	18.22
Total	104.11	50.39	53.72

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17)

2.13 The Committee further take note of the steps taken by HIL(India) Ltd. to overcome the loss generated in the year 2021-22 in Rasayani unit. The company is focusing on utilization of idle production capacity of agrochemicals plants besides increasing the production of LLINs and also persuading the major vendors to supply new materials to streamline the production. The Committee would like to be assured that the Department/HIL (India) Ltd. would take all corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such a huge loss in future.

Reply:

Due to decline in the DDT demand and export orders in 2021-22, sales of DDT was drastically decreased. Rasayani Plant suffered a Rs.35.56 crore loss in 2022-23 due to factors like DDT order delays and production disruptions.

Now, company has received the approval for closure of two loss making units i.e. Udyogamandal unit at Kerala and Bathinda unit at Punjab. Further, Agrochemicals plants like mancozeb, Pendimethalin and Glyphosate plants will be shifted from Udyogamandal unit to Rasayani unit to strengthen the production capacity and viability of Rasayani unit.

In F.Y. 2023-24, company has earned a profit of Rs. 4.73 crore (provisional) as compared to loss of Rs.68.70 crore in the F.Y. 2022-23.

In FY 2024-25, the company is planning to diversify to other business verticals of the organisation like marketing of bio-pesticides & bio-fertilizers. The company has also strengthening its Seed business vertical through expansion of product line by venturing into the hybrid seed as well as fodder seeds. HIL(India) Ltd. has signed MoU with leading hybrid seed manufacturers in India. The company has also strengthen the product line of agrochemicals by including new generation pesticides.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18)

Non-Payment of salaries/arrears to employees of HIL (India) Ltd.

2.14 The Committee, during their study visit to Kochi in May, 2023 learnt that the Udyogamandal Unit of HIL (India) Limited had been closed down due to operational losses because of increase in production cost at the plant as raw materials were brought from far-off places, which made its products

unviable. The Committee regret to note that due to paucity of funds, salary and other dues could not be provided to their employees for the past several months. Even the retired employees are not given gratuity and pension. Further, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/ Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) has been offered to the employees of the unit. Though the Committee were assured during the study visit in May, 2023 that utmost efforts would be made by the Department to get the dues of HIL of Rs. 96 crore pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which will facilitate payment of salary and other dues to its employees, the position as is learnt remains the same even after considerable lapse of time with no resolution to the crisis. The representatives of the Department during evidence on 28 July, 2023 submitted that the employees are being given some advances to take care of their day- to-day needs. Further, a proposal for the closure of two units will soon be sent to DPE for final approval of the administrative mechanism. Out of Rs. 401 crore that has been sought, Rs. 56 crore will be for meeting the expenditure arising on account of VRS/VSS and also, for payment of pending salary dues. The remaining amount will be used for making payments to the vendors and also for the loans.

The Committee would like to be assured that the Department would vigorously pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance and get the required amount of Rs. 402 crore for expending the same on account of VRS/VSS, for payment of pending salary dues to the employees, etc. The Committee hope that the matter will get a favorable response from the Ministry of Finance. The Committee would like to be kept updated on the matter.

Reply:

D/o Expenditure and Deptt. of Economic Affairs have approved budgetary support to release Rs.486.74 crore to the company as fresh loan. Government made a provision of Rs. 399.18 Cr. in 2nd Supplementary Grant for FY 2023-24 to Udyogmandal and Bathinda Units to clear the liabilities on account of bank loan, statutory dues and employees liabilities of outstanding dues including VRS/VSS of Udyogmandal and Bathinda Units. The amount of Rs. 399.18 Cr. was released to HIL (India) Ltd. to clear the bank loan and liabilities of employees of Udyogamandal and Bathinda Units. On 09.05.2024, Dept. of Economic Affairs has also approved the proposal for contingency advance of Rs. 87.56 Crore for closure of two units at Udyogmandal and Bathinda. An amount of Rs.87.56 Crore has also been released as 2nd Installment of loan to HIL (INDIA) Limited during 2024-25 for settlement/clearance of liabilities of Udyogamandal and Bathinda Units on account of Vendor Dues, payment of 2007 Pay Revision Arrears and Shifting of Plant from Udyogamandal and Bathinda Units to Rasayani Unit of HIL (India) Limited.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19)

Training programmes for farmers for judicious use of Fertilizers

2.15 The Committee note that the D/o Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) extendsfinancial support under Chemicals Promotion Development Scheme (CPDS) for organizing seminars, conferences and training programs to create awareness among the farmers about judicious use of agrochemicals and fertilizers. The Committee also note with satisfaction that HIL (India) Ltd. as well as IPFT organize training programmes under CPDS to enhance awareness among the farmers to judicially use pesticides and for helping them in addressing the problems such as soil degradation, damage to the underground water bodies, human life and environment due to the adverse effect of residual pesticides, etc. Farmers are also sensitized through video clips and PPE kits are also given to the farmers.

Taking cognizance of the fact that the increased use of chemical fertilizers in the countrywould consequently translate into enhanced crop production, the committee feel that training to the farmers is the need of the hour to educate them about the judicious use of fertilizers to reduce their harmful effects on the environment and other forms of life. The Committee, therefore, recommend that pan-India training programmes should be organized at frequent intervals of time with wide publicity so as to engage more and more farmers.

Reply:

Efforts made by the Department in this regard are indicated in reply to the 2nd Observation of Hon'ble Committee.

Steps taken by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:

Steps are being taken for safe and judicious use of pesticides during regular field surveys in the farmers fields and also during various training programmes (Farmers Field Schools, 2 Days, Safe and judicious use of pesticides programmes etc.).

During 2019-20 to 2023-24, DAC&FW has organized 1,781 numbers of Farmers Field Schools in which 57,020 numbers of farmers were trained, 422 numbers of 2 Days programmes were organized in which 21,326 numbers of farmers were trained. 1,591 numbers of Safe and judicious use of pesticides awareness campaigns were conducted in which 53,397 nos. of farmers were trained on reducing the usage of chemical pesticides.

Apart from this, on regular basis promotion on use of various bio-pesticides and bio- control agents and its releases in field during survey and training programmes were carried out which helps in management of various pest and pathogen. Various bio-pesticides are registered with CIB & RC which promotes availability of quality bio-pesticides to the farmers. Thus, regular promotion of above mentioned steps among farming community helps in safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Further, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, through its autonomous Institute, National Centre for Management of Agricultural Extension (MANAGE) conducts Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) to train them in efficient handling of agri-inputs and laws governing regulation of agricultural Inputs. The program aims to equip agro-input dealers to serve as effective sources of farm information at the village level, acting as a one-stop shop for farmers.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 20)

Nil import of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)

2.16 The Committee are happy to learn that the LLINs have not been imported even once during the last three years as indigenous technology has been developed for the commercialization of the LLINs at HIL (India) Ltd. The Committee are aware that this will not only reduce the dependency of the country on imports but also save precious foreign reserves/exchange. The Committee would desire the Department to keep up the good work with regard to attaining self-reliance in the manufacture of LLINs in the future as well.

Reply:

HIL(India)Limited has set up Long Lasting Insecticidal net(LLIN) manufacturing facility of capacity 5 lakh net per year with the financial support of UNIDO in the Year 2019-20. Now HIL is under process of expanding the production capacity from 5 lakh net /year to 10 lakh net/year.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

-NIL-

CHAPTER – IV

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2)

Development of Pesticides

1. The Committee note that Pesticides prevent the loss of agricultural products from diseases and attack of pests. The locusts attack in the year 2019-20 and 2020-2021 was controlled successfully when HIL (India) Ltd supplied approximately 600 KC of Malathion Technical to the Ministry of Agriculture for locust control programme. The Committee have been informed that the food grain production has increased from 52 million tonnes in the year 1951-52 to 300 billion tonnes in 2021-22 and among various factors which have helped in increasing the agriculture production in the country, pesticides have played a vital role. The Committee appreciate that the Department has been taking various measures for promotion and development of pesticides like (i) playing the role of promoters for growth of the Industry (ii) taking up inter-ministerial coordination to sort out the problems of chemicals and petrochemicals sector (iii) extending financial support under Chemicals Promotion Development Scheme(CPDS) for organizing seminars, conferences and training programmes to create awareness among the farmers about the judicious use of agrochemicals and fertilizers.

The Committee take note of the fact that while pesticides play a vital role in increasing the agricultural production, their extensive use can, directly or indirectly, pollute air, water, soil and overall ecosystem thereby causing serious health hazards for living beings. The Committee, therefore, recommend that measures being taken by the Department for the promotion and development of pesticides should be stringently implemented for the balanced growth of pesticides in the country.

Reply:

It is informed that the Department intends to promote judicious and safe use of Pesticides by conducting farmers training and sensitization programmes. Since 2016, Department has been organizing farmer training programs under the Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme(CPDS).

The details of Farmers Training Programmes conducted by the Department during 2021-22 to2023-24 are given below:

S.No.	Financial Year	No. of Training Programmes	No. of Participants
1.	2021-22	22	6678
2.	2022-23	35	7484
3.	2023-24	25	9972

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 1.7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3)

Less consumption of Pesticides

2. The Committee note that the Pesticide Industry in India has a size of 50,000 crore and generic Pesticides are in demand worldwide. There is tremendous potential in the Pesticides industry, which needs to be tapped. The Committee, however, regret to note that consumption of the pesticides in the country is 0.5 kg per hectare whereas the consumption in some other countries is as high as 17 Kg per hectare, even though India is the second largest producer of agricultural products. The Department has clarified that countries like China and Japan have intensive agriculture—green house as well as poly house agriculture in which a number of crops are grown in and due to intensification of agriculture and the 'spring technology'. These countries have a lead over India. Besides, the management of intensive agriculture in these countries is relatively better. Therefore, these countries use more pesticides. The Committee feel that significantly lower penetration levels of pesticides in India as compared to other countries like China clearly suggest that the market for pesticides is still largely unpenetrated with huge room for future growth in the country. Furthermore, with rising population, food demand is expected to continue to increase in the coming years and pesticides will play a key role in increasing the average crop yields per hectare.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee feel that it is high time that the Department acts promptly to enhance the use of agrochemicals/pesticides in the country. The Committee recommend that the Department should study the agricultural practices of countries like Japan and China for suitably adopting the same in India. There is an urgent need for the Government to take initiatives to give a boost to the Pesticides industry. Increasing availability of pesticides and low interest rates of farm loans would encourage farmers to use more pesticides in order to improve crop yields. Initiatives should be taken to increase awareness of Pesticides among farmers. Farmers should be educated on the right usage of Pesticides in terms of quantity, the right application methodology and appropriate chemicals to be used for identified pest problems, etc.

Reply:

D/o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed that the use of Pesticides depends on several factors like area under cultivation, type of crop, cropping intensity, agro climatic conditions, soil condition, pests (e.g. weed, insect and disease) situation etc. However, with the objective of educating, orienting and training of farming community about the judicious use of pesticides and use as per the prescriptions given in the label and leaflets, Central and State Governments through Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) and Farmers Field Schools, ensure that farmers are provided right knowledge/ information about recommended pesticides use.

Further, State Governments and Union Territories report data related to consumption of pesticides to Central Government. As per the provided data, the trend of consumption of chemical pesticides has varied from year to year and State to State. The state wise details on consumption of chemical pesticides and bio-pesticides is attached at **Annexure-I and II,** (quantities are in MT) respectively. Also, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has been organizing Farmers Training Programme as mentioned in point No. 2 above, with the objective of increasing awareness about the efficacy of pesticides and the need for their increased usage judiciously to boost productivity of the crops.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 1.10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9)

Indian Chemicals Industry

3. The Committee note that the Indian Chemical Industry stands 6th globally in sales values, its present market size is around US $ 220 billion and it is expected to reach US $ 300 billion by the year 2025. Further, in the agrochemicals sector, India is the 4th largest producer and exporter and in dyes-stuffs India is 2nd largest producer and exporter. Moreover, it contributes 9.40% of manufacturing gross value added and 1.69 % of National Gross value added. Also, it employs around four million people directly and indirectly. However, it is worrisome that Indian Chemical Industry is the net importer and in financial year 2020-21, the trade deficit stood at Rs. 1.75 lakh crore. The main reason was the non-availability of feedstocks and mining agents.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee believe that Indian Chemical Industry has a potential to grow further and therefore would earnestly desire that the Government should extend all possible help and assistance to resolve the issues being faced by the Indian Chemical Industry. Though the Department, in order to reduce dependence on imports, is working on introducing the PLI

scheme in the chemicals sector for those chemicals which are majorly imported from a single source and have multiple uses, the Committee recommend that the Government act with urgency to minimize the trade deficit in the near future.

Reply:

In order to promote the manufacturing of chemicals and petrochemicals in the country, Department has set up three Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) in the state of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. These PCPIRs have attracted investment of Rs. 2,43,027 Crore.

In order to protect the domestic industry from the unfair trade practices, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals makes BIS Standards mandatory. Also, in consultation with domestic industry, Department recommends to rationalize the duty to D/o Revenue on imported products for providing level playing field to the domestic industry.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 1.13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11)

Consumption of Agrochemicals in the country

4. The Committee note that Agrochemicals are chemicals that are used to control pests, pathogens, etc. and supply nutrients to the soil. Further, Insecticides/Pesticides are broadly termed as Agrochemicals and play a vital role in increasing agricultural productivity by protecting crops from insects, pests, fungi, weed etc. Agrochemical sector is also contributing in a big way to the GDP as well as to gross value addition manufacturing. The global market of agrochemicals is 4,50,000 crore. However, the Indian size of the agrochemicals market is about Rs. 50,000 crore. India is a net exporter of agrochemicals. A perusal of the country-wise consumption of Agrochemicals *inter-alia* reveals that the consumption of Agrochemicals in Kilo tonnes by China is 1763, USA 407, Brazil 377, Argentina 172, Canada 90, France 85, Russia 76 and their world share are 43 percent, 10 percent, 9 percent, 4 percent, 2 percent, 2 percent, 2 percent respectively, whereas the consumption of Agrochemicals in India in Kilo tonnes is just 58 and its world share is just 1 percent. The Committee desire to know the reasons for this huge difference in consumption of Agrochemicals between India and other countries. The Committee would further like to be apprised of the concrete steps being taken to increase the consumption of agrochemicals in India and to increase its world share.

Reply:

The Government has implemented several measures to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides and instead promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, emphasizing the use of bio pesticides and organic farming methods, providing training and extension services to farmers on sustainable agriculture practices, incentivizing the adoption of eco- friendly pest control methods, and strict enforcing regulations on the sale and use of pesticides to ensure their judicious application. Additionally, the government encourages research and development efforts towards developing safer and more effective alternatives to chemical pesticides, aiming to safeguard public health and the environment while promoting sustainableagricultural practices nationwide.

Government of India has taken various steps to promote the use of bio pesticides. Simplified guidelines have been formulated by Registration Committee (RC) for the registration of bio pesticides. For bio- pesticides, provisional registrations are being granted under Section 9 (3B) of the Act, along with the permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years based on the confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM) and quality verification of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL). These strategic initiatives underscore the commitment to accelerating the adoption of bio pesticides in Indian agriculture, aligning with the broader goal of sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 1.16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

CHAPTER -V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

-NIL-

APPENDIX II

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTY-SIXTH REPORT (SEVENTEETH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (2023-240 ON 'INSECTICIDES &PESTICIDES- PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING SAFE USAGE- LICENCING REGIME FOR INSECTICIDES' OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS).

I. Total No. of Observations/Recommendations 21

II. Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Rec. Sl. No. 1,4,5,6,7,8,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19 and 20

Total: 16

Percentage of Total: 80%

III. Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not like to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Rec. Sl. No. Ni

Total: 00

Percentage of Total: 0%

IV. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Rec. Sl. No. 2,3,9 and 11 Total: 04

Percentage of Total: 20%

V. Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are of interim nature:

Rec. Sl. No. Nil

Total: 00

Percentage of Total: 0%

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (2024-25) MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 12th December, 2024 from 1500 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in the Committee **Room 'D', PHA, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

SHRI AZAD KIRTI JHA - CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Brijmohan Agrawal
3. Shri Robert Bruce C
4. Smt. Kriti Devi Debbarman
5. Dr. Kalyan Vaijinathrao Kale
6. Shri Babu Singh Kushwaha
7. Shri Utkarsh Verma Madhur
8. Dr. Sambit Patra
9. Shri Balram Naik Porika
10. Shri Sachithanantham R.
11. Shri Eatala Rajender
12. Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao
13. Shri Tharaniventhan M.S.
14. Dr. Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon
15. Shri Shivmangal Singh Tomar

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Subhash Barala
17. Shri Subhash Chandra Bose Pilli
18. Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy
19. Dr. Kalpana Saini
20. Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh
21. Shri Tejveer Singh

SECRETARIAT

4. Smt. Suman Arora - Additional Secretary

5. Ms. Miranda Ingudam - Director
6. Shri Kulvinder Singh - Deputy Secretary
7. Shri Nagendra Suman - Deputy Secretary
8. Shri Abhishek Kumar - Deputy Director
9. Ms. Neelam Bhave - Committee Officer

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration, the following Draft Reports:

(i) First Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observation/Recommendation of the Committee contained in their Forty Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Insecticides and Pesticides – Promotion and Development including safe usage licensing regime for insecticides' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals,

(ii)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
(iii)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
(iv)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
(v)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX

3. Giving an overview of the important Observations/Recommendations contained in the draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/suggestions of the Members.

4. After some deliberations, the draft Reports were adopted by the Committee without any amendment.

5. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports and present/lay the Reports in both the Houses of Parliament in light of factual verifications received from the concerned Ministry/Departments.

***The Committee then adjourned*.**