

farmers to increase their production: and

(b) the financial assistance given to farmers during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The financial/technical assistance to the farmers is provided by Government of India through the various Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes implemented by State/UTs Governments, Agriculture Universities, ICAR and its institutions viz. Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Extension services, Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutions, Agriculture Services Centres etc.

(b) Government of India do not provide financial assistance to the farmers directly.

[English]

Pesticide Poisoning

1267. **SHRI RABI RAY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pesticides take heavy toll in Third World' appearing in 'The Tribune' dated July 19, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the deaths occurring due to pesticide poisoning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is alive to the issues raised in the article,

Under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Registration Committee registers pesticide only after satisfying itself regarding its safety to human beings, animals and the environment. As a statutory requirement, the labels and leaflets accompanying the containers of pesticides carry the message/instructions regarding the safe use of pesticides as abuse or mis-use of these toxic pesticides can lead to poisoning/death. Moreover, the farmers are educated on safe handling of pesticides through the mass media as well by extension functionaries from time to time. Use of protective clothings by the farmers to avoid contact with pesticide is encouraged.

As a preventive measure, many of the extremely toxic pesticides have been banned or refused registration or have been restricted in their use. Further, when a particular insecticide of highly toxic nature cannot be eliminated considering its efficacy, its safer formulation(s) is/are registered.

To avoid mis-use or over-use of pesticides maximum residue limits have been prescribed in food commodities under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

As per provision of the Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, various functionaries have been notified by the State Governments to report on the occurrence of poisoning due to pesticides. This information is intended to monitor the risks being faced by the people from different pesticides and to initiate the necessary studies and action on the more hazardous pesticides.

To reduce the use of pesticide, the Government is advocating the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. This approach emphasises on pest surveillance, use of chemical pesticides only after Economic Threshold Level (ETL) of pest attack, cultural, mechanical, biological practices for pest control.