

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2734
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
IMPACT OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES ON FARMERS
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether blood samples of many farmers hailing from Southern States and particularly from Kerala and Karnataka sent to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi have revealed that they are suffering from diseases caused due to excessive exposure to chemical pesticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to create awareness among the farmers in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): On the directives of the National Human Rights Commission, the National Institute of Occupational Health of the Indian Council of Medical Research had submitted its report on investigation of unusual illnesses allegedly caused by exposure to Endosulfan in Padre Village of Kasargod District in N. Kerala. NIOH has observed significantly higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defects and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasargod district of North Kerala due to aerial spraying of endosulfan over the cashew plantation.

(c) to (e): The Central Government and State Governments conduct awareness campaigns for safe and judicious use of pesticide through various training programmes for extension functionaries and officials of Agriculture Departments of Central and State Governments at National Plant Protection Training Institute, Hyderabad and other locations, who in turn train farmers across the nation regarding this aspect.

The labels, leaflets and packaging of pesticides, approved by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 also contain detailed instructions/information on safe use of pesticides.

Further, under the Integrated Pest Management approach, Farmers Field Schools are organized to train farmers in safe and judicious use of pesticides with the aim of preventing misuse or excessive use thereof.