

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to curb/ban the excessive use of pesticides/chemicals in agriculture sector which are harmful for health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The residues of pesticides do not cause any known health hazards and pollution problems, if used as per recommendations. All the pesticides containers have labels and leaflets incorporating the approved usage as per Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder. These usages are approved by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) and (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Deptt. of Food & Consumer Affairs specifies and publishes standards of spraying equipment. Both Central and State Governments undertake various programmes to educate the farmers about proper use of pesticides in the agricultural sector.

(e) The following steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the excessive use of pesticides/chemicals in agricultural sector:—

- (i) Banning of 20 pesticides including some of the persistent pesticides.
- (ii) Restricting the use of 13 pesticides to avoid problem of pesticide residue and health hazard.
- (iii) Promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) encompassing cultural, mechanical, biological control methods and need-based use of chemical pesticides for the benefit of farmers.
- (iv) Advocating use of bio-pesticides including neem based pesticides and pheromones.
- (v) Imparting training to farmers and the extension workers on IPM technologies.
- (vi) Conducting IPM demonstrations on various crops for the benefit of farmers and extension workers.

[English]

Insurance Scheme

997. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory group insurance of people living in the coastal areas against cyclone, flood, earthquake etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this scheme is applicable to the people living in the coastal areas of the Orissa State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) with an average annual allocation of Rs. 1260.00 crores has been constituted for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Financial assistance to the families of people who die in the wake of natural calamities is also provided from this Fund, in addition to assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Under the Group Accident Insurance Component of the National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme, upto 11.50 lakh active fishermen were insured against death and permanent/partial disability by accident during the Eighth Plan period.

(d) and (e) Orissa has a CRF allocation of Rs. 258.01 crores for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000. One lakh active fishermen in the State were insured during the Eighth Plan period against death and disability by accident.

Intra-venous Fluids

998. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that high margin of more than 100 per cent is being charged by the stockists on intra-venous fluids;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is proposal under consideration of the Government to put intra-venous fluids under the price control;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) Govt. is seized of