

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6143
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
USE OF SPURIOUS PESTICIDES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaint from the Agro Chemical Policy Group (APG) regarding damage to crops due to use of spurious pesticides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against the manufacturers of spurious pesticides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to take steps to check the availability and supply of spurious pesticides in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): The Government has received representations from the pesticide industry regarding manufacture and sale of spurious pesticides in the market. A news item published in the newspaper 'Business Standard' dated 22.9.08 had mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs.6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) to (f): Quality of pesticides is checked by the State Governments through regular drawal of pesticide samples by Insecticide Inspectors and their analysis by Insecticide Analysts in Pesticide Testing Laboratories under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. 21 States and one UT have set up 62 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories with an annual capacity of analysing over 65,340 pesticide samples. Two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur with annual capacity of 1,100 samples each supplement the resources of States/UTs in analysis of pesticides. Besides, the Government has set up a Central Insecticide laboratory at Faridabad as referral laboratory.

Government of India provides grants-in-aid to States for setting up of Pesticides Testing Laboratories and for strengthening the existing laboratories.

Licensing Authorities of State Agriculture Departments take administrative and legal action against the suppliers of the misbranded pesticides including suspension or cancellation of licenses and launching of prosecution in the court of law.

During 2008-09, 133 licenses were suspended and 636 licenses cancelled besides conviction in 222 cases, as reported by State Governments.