

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3844

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010

USE OF ENDOSULFAN

Raghavan Shri M. K.; Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from Government of Kerala to ban the use of insecticide 'Endosulfan' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the details of the areas identified where soil has been adversely affected due to use of chemical fertilisers and the names of the chemicals fertilisers which cause this adverse impact on soil; and
- (e) the steps taken to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers including promotion of organic fertilisers?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The Union Government has not received any representation from Government of Kerala to ban the use of insecticide 'Endosulfan' in the country.

However, there were reports of unusual illness in certain villages of Kasargod district of North Kerala, allegedly caused by aerial spraying of Endosulfan over cashew plantation. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Mayee to investigate the matter. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, use of Endosulfan has been kept on hold in Kerala vide notification No. S.O. 1874(E) dated 31.10.2006.

The use of Endosulfan is continued in the country except in Kerala.

(d): There is no scientific evidence of adverse effect on soil fertility when chemical fertilisers are used judiciously. However, indiscriminate or injudicious use of chemical fertilisers coupled with low addition of organic matter has resulted in deterioration of soil health in the country particularly in the intensively cultivated areas of Indo-Gangetic plains.

(e): Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme "National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility" since 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilisers for improving soil health and its productivity. The scheme includes setting up/ strengthening of soil testing laboratories, trainings and demonstrations on balanced use of fertilisers.

Ministry of Agriculture is promoting organic fertilisers by providing financial assistance and subsidies under schemes namely National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) and National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF).