

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:436
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2009
USE OF MONOCROTOPHOS PESTICIDE
Panda Shri Baijayant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a pesticide called monocrotophos which is toxic for human, is used by farmers for purposes other than farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the pesticide is banned in other countries while it is still used in the country;
- (d) whether as per study of the World Health Organisation (WHO), deaths of farmers in certain countries had been halved once they had stopped its use; and
- (e) if so, the action plan of the Government to address this issue?

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): Monocrotophos has been approved for use in the country by Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of Insecticides Act, 1968 for control of different pests in crops except in vegetables. However, there is no authentic information with the Government about its usage by farmers for purposes other than farming.

(c) to (e): Monocrotophos is being used in several countries of the world – Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Surinam, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

However, it is banned in Hungary, Kuwait, Libya, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and USA and restricted in Australia, China, Korea, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Pesticides are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968 after thorough scrutiny and investigation. In case negative toxicological information on certain pesticides comes to the knowledge of the Government during course of their use either internationally or nationally the use of these pesticides is reviewed by the Government by appointing Expert Committees. Use of monocrotophos has been reviewed by three Expert Committees in 1993, 1995 and 2006. As per the recommendations made by the experts use of monocrotophos is allowed on crops except on vegetables.

The Government is promoting the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which envisages use of cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest control and only need based judicious use of chemical pesticides. In addition, extension functionaries of State and Central Governments educate the farmers and dealers for safe and judicious use of pesticides for control of different insect pests, diseases and weeds of different crops.