

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:1
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011
USE OF BANNED PESTICIDES
Sudhakaran Shri K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the indiscriminate use of pesticides/weedicides which are banned in the countries of their origin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the advisory issued by the European countries with regard to the import of agricultural produce on account of high dosages of banned pesticides;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to limit the use of pesticides within the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 1 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2011.

(a) & (b): Use of pesticides in the country is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Pesticides are permitted for use after verifying claim of efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. Pesticides permitted for use are reviewed from time to time based on fresh scientific information. There are 67 pesticides allowed for use in India which have been either banned or severely restricted by some countries. Certain reports in the media have referred to vegetables available in the market containing banned pesticides. However, analysis of samples of agricultural commodities, including vegetables, collected for detection of pesticide residues under the Central Sector Scheme of 'Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level' has so far not indicated use of any pesticide banned under the Insecticides Act, 1968. In respect of pesticides not banned under the Act, there have been instances where in some areas stipulations on dosage, crops, and method of application were not adhered to mainly due to lack of awareness.

(c) & (d): Government has taken note of European Commission's (EC) regulations regarding harmonized list of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides effective from 1st September, 2008. The issue of stringent MRLs set by EC has been taken up in bilateral discussions with European Union.

(e): The Central and State Governments organize training programmes on safe and judicious use of pesticides to educate the farmers and to create awareness about ill-effects of misuse of pesticides. The Government is popularizing the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a Central Sector Scheme 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' which includes cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest control and emphasizes safe and judicious use of pesticides.