

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3360

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011

BAN ON ENDOSULFAN

Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court's ban on production, sale and use of Endosulfan harm the interest of farmers in the coming Kharif season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to move ahead on this issue as the farmers with small holdings would suffer a lot;
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has identified any alternative insecticides; and
- (f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to replace Endosulfan with a more environmentally friendly insecticide?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (f): Endosulfan is a broad spectrum insecticide approved for use in the country for several crops. Alternative pesticides to Endosulfan are available, but many are costlier. Some of them are categorized as more hazardous and also more toxic to honey bees. In writ petition (civil) No. 213 of 2011 "Democratic Youth Federation of India vs Union of India & Ors", Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an ad-interim order on 13.05.2011 banning production, sale and use of Endosulfan in the country till further orders and appointed a Joint Committee headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Agriculture Commissioner to conduct a scientific study on the question whether the use of Endosulfan would cause any serious health hazard to human beings and would cause environmental pollution.

The Committee was also directed by the Court to suggest alternatives to Endosulfan.