

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3081

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

POLICY ON PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that many pesticides/weedicides which are banned in several foreign countries are indiscriminately used in producing vegetables and fruits in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has banned endosulfan and other pesticides/weedicides for agriculture purpose;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to frame agriculture policy on utilisation of pesticides and fertilisers;
- (e) if so, whether there is any proposal to invite experts, before framing such policy;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to limit/ban the use of such pesticides in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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 by Expert Committees from time to time based on fresh scientific information. Based on such reviews by Expert Committee, there are 67 pesticides allowed for use in India which otherwise, have been either banned or severely restricted in some countries. List is annexed.

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. Accordingly, the Central Government issued instructions on 14.05.2011 to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement interim order of the Court in toto, which are binding on all manufacturers.

(d) to (g): While Union Government is not contemplating to frame agriculture policy on utilization of pesticides and fertilizers, Central and State Governments organize training programs 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. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a scheme "National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility" (NPMSh&F) to promote balanced and judicious use of fertilizer in conjunction with organic manure on soil test basis.