

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2638

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012

USE OF ENDOSULFAN

Biju Shri P. K.;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that many pesticides/weedicides which are banned in other countries are used in large scale in agriculture including production of vegetables and fruits which create health hazards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) the number of complaints received by the Union Government during the last three years and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Union Government has requested the Supreme Court to permit the use of Endosulfan in the country for agricultural purpose;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Supreme Court in this regard;
- (f) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate a new agricultural policy regarding judicious use of pesticides and fertilisers and to promote organic fertilisers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): There are 67 pesticides which are banned or restricted for use in some countries but are registered and used in India by farmers and growers of fruits and vegetables. These pesticides have been reviewed by various Technical Committees which have recommended their continued use with certain conditions. The details are at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e): Supreme Court vide its order dated 23.4.2012 inter alia directed "â€¦.The Central Government will also ascertain the quantity of raw material, i.e., hccp, which is lying with the three companies and the manner in which the said raw material would be disposed of, whether in bulk or in phased manner. Secondly, the Central Government will also inform this Court as to the disposal of the final product which, we are told, is Endosulfan and which is lying in two Forms, one is Endosulfan Technical and other is Endosulfan formulationâ€¦. Subject to checking the figures, broadly, we reiterate that the Central Government shall submit its Report as to the manner of disposal of HCCP and the final product and the period within which the same shall be disposed of/phased out. The Central Government shall place the Report by the second week of July, 2012".

Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture has recommended following steps in its Report submitted in the Supreme Court:

1. Stop further import of raw material HCCP
2. Allow manufacture of Endosulfan technical and formulation from existing stock of HCCP
3. Endosulfan Technical and formulation be allowed for export
4. Endosulfan formulation be allowed for use in the country other than Kerala and Karnataka
5. Endosulfan be phased out as per Stockholm Convention
6. It may take 5 years to phase out the stocks through exports and domestic consumption. As per international practice, products are phased out by making an advance announcement of the cut off dates for import or manufacture. The manufacturers plan production in a manner to completely exhaust the raw materials by the cut off dates.
7. The expired stock may be disposed of either through incineration or by export.

(f) & (g): No new agricultural policy regarding judicious use of pesticides & fertilizers or to promote organic fertilizers is being formulated. However, Government is implementing various schemes to promote judicious use of pesticides & fertilizers and to

promote organic fertilizers.