

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
SPRAYING OF PESTICIDES
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a number of farmers died due to spraying of pesticides during the last three years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any provisions for licence in order to spray pesticides;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the spray of pesticides without licence;
- (d) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is conducting any research in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

- (a): No, Madam. There is no report to suggest that a number of farmers died due to spraying of pesticides during the last three years.
 - (b) & (c): For farmers, there is no provision of obtaining licence for spraying of pesticides on their own farmland. However, there is a provision of licence for commercial pest control operators for use of pesticides under Section 13 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. As per Insecticides Rules 1971, Commercial Pest Control Operation means any application or dispersion of Insecticide(s) including fumigants in household or public or private premises or land and includes pest control operations in the field including aerial applications for commercial purposes but excludes private use.
 - (d) & (e): Indian Council of Agricultural Research took up research to develop suitable pesticide application technology in order to standardise the available pesticide applicators and their specifications for various crop canopy volumes and sizes. The motorized knapsack sprayer run with petrol engine gave the best spread and coverage of fine droplets that enabled better bio-efficacy of the desired pesticides to control various types of pests that affected the crop by sap sucking/tissue boring/tissue chewing or due to infection of diseases/nematodes etc., hand operated knapsack sprayers with twin nozzles were found to be the next best to achieve less advantages of reduced time and cost to cover the large crop area with high efficiency in terms of pest suppression than the conventional knapsack hand- operated sprayers.
- With the increase in fuel price, conventional power sprayers have been replaced by kerosene operated imported sprayers. However, for tall tree horticulture crops, rocker/foot pump sprayer is still used by farmers. Tractor operated sprayers are much better in performance amongst available ones for row-crops.