

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3512  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES  
M.Thambidurai Dr.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware of the reports of ill-health of farmers due to constant usage of pesticides in several States, including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the harmful impact of pesticides on farmers' health?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Pesticides are toxic and are required to be used as per conditions approved by the Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. If used in the manner prescribed, which is printed on the label and the leaflet, pesticides do not cause harm to human beings, livestock or crops in agriculture. Health problems have been reported in Kasargod district of Kerala, and by the State Government in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka, allegedly due to aerial spraying of Endosulfan in cashew plantations.

Vide an ad-Interim Order dated 13.5.2011, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India put a ban on production, use and sale of Endosulfan in India till further order in Writ Petition filed in Supreme Court of India (Civil No. 213 of 2011 against Union Govt. of India and others) by Democratic Youth Federation of India. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court of India.

(c): Central and State Governments organize training programmes on safe and judicious use of pesticides to educate farmers and to create awareness about ill effects from misuse of pesticides. The government is popularizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a Central Sector Scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" to promote cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest control and safe and judicious use of pesticides. Government is promoting use of bio-pesticides and these are registered/provisionally registered on simplified guidelines. Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, registers safe and effective pesticides for use in the country after thorough evaluation scientific data and information submitted by an applicant for registration. Pesticides are reviewed from time to time and only those pesticides are allowed to be used in the country which are found to be safe after technical evaluation.