

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

USE OF BANNED PESTICIDES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some banned pesticides are still used in agricultural activities, cultivation of vegetables and fruits etc. which affects human health, crops and soil also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any policy on utilisation of pesticides, chemical and fertilisers and promoting the use of bio-fertilisers amongst farmers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In the past, certain reports have referred to fruits and vegetables available in the market containing banned pesticides. However, analysis of samples of agricultural commodities, including vegetables, collected for detection of pesticide residues under the Central Sector Scheme of "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" does not indicate use of any pesticide banned under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

A pesticide is registered only after scrutiny of bio-efficacy and bio-safety as per the provisions of the Insecticides Act 1968. Further, to ensure continued safety of such products, the Government appoints expert groups from time to time to review any registered pesticide which may be reported to cause any adverse effect or are banned/ severely restricted in other countries and action is taken on the basis of the recommendation of such expert groups. As such, if any negative feed-back is received, the registered pesticides are reviewed and if required, restriction or ban is imposed. As a result, some pesticides /formulations have been banned for import, manufacture and use and some have been put under restricted use in the country.

(c) & (d): The Insecticides Act, 1968 regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of Insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings, animals and for matters connected therewith. The Insecticides Rules, 1971 have been framed under the Act. Registered pesticides are to be used as per directions mentioned on label and leaflet with respect to label claims, doses, method and time of application.

Central Government has also advised State Governments and State agriculture universities to recommend uses of pesticides as approved by Registration Committee

Government is popularizing the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control of pests, diseases and weeds on various crops which envisages use of non-chemical methods like cultural, mechanical, biological, use of biopesticides and need based and judicious use of chemical pesticides.

Central and State Governments are imparting training to farmers for safe use of pesticides. Farmers are advised to use registered pesticides at recommended dosage and observe the required precaution and other instructions as given in Label and Leaflets.

The policies formulated and the measures taken by the government to ensure soil health and fertility, inter alia, include promotion of soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures to maintain soil health and productivity. A new scheme, namely, National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSH&F) has been introduced during 2008-09 to promote soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures.

The Government is providing incentive in the form of credit linked bank ended subsidy for establishment of bio-fertilizer units under National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) @ 25% of total outlay restricted to Rs.40.00 lakh per unit.