

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013
BAN ON USE OF HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES
Lingam Shri P.;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the wake of the tragic incident in Bihar where 23 school children died after consuming mid-day meals contaminated with a pesticide, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has urged the Government to speed up the withdrawal of highly hazardous pesticides from the market;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the use of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture is posing a serious risk to human health, environment and agricultural production; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ban the use of such pesticides in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 259 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH AUGUST, 2013.

(a) & (b): The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has recommended governments in developing countries to speed up the withdrawal of highly hazardous pesticides from their markets. Government of India has set up a Committee of Experts to review 66 pesticides which are currently banned/restricted/withdrawn in other countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India.

(c) & (d): the Insecticides Act, 1968 regulates the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of pesticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings, animals and for matters connected therewith. Pesticides are registered under the provisions of the Insecticides Act 1968 only after they are found to be safe to human, animal and environmental health. Use of pesticides as per directions mentioned on label and leaflet of the pesticide container with respect to label claims, dosage, method and time of application approved under the provisions of the Insecticides Act is not likely to cause adverse effect on human animal and environmental health.

Government appoints expert groups from time to time to review the continuance of registration of specific pesticides or group of pesticides. As a result, several pesticides/formulations have been banned/restricted for import, manufacture and use in India.

Government has also advised State Governments and State agriculture universities to recommend usage of pesticides in conformity with the terms of registration as approved by Registration Committee.

Government is popularizing the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control of pests, diseases and weeds by promoting use of cultural, mechanical, biological means of plant protection 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 as per instructions and precautions on the labels and leaflets.