

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:346

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

BANNED PESTICIDES

Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that certain banned pesticides are used for production and artificial ripening of fruits, vegetables and other crops which have an adverse impact on human health, soil and livestock;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify the level of pesticide residues in the fruits, vegetables and other crops;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ban the use of harmful pesticides in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 346 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2014.

(a) & (b): There have been reports in the media regarding the use of calcium carbide for artificially induced ripening of fruits and vegetables. Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, prohibit the sale of fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, produced from calcium carbide. The Food Safety/Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs who are responsible for implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and its Rules/Regulations have been requested to keep a strict vigil against use of carbide gas and other hazardous chemicals for ripening of fruits. The State Governments have also been advised to generate awareness amongst the public against consumption of such artificial ripened fruits.

Users have been advised to use safe products like ethylene in gaseous form upto 100 ppm for ripening of fruits or Ethephon 39% SL for ripening of mango, tomato & coffee berries.

(c): Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" under which samples of various food commodities including fruits and vegetables are analyzed for presence of pesticide residues.

(d): During the period April 2009 to March 2013, a total of 54,195 samples of vegetables, fruits, spices, rice, wheat, pulses, milk, animal feed, fish/crustacean, tea, honey, meat, egg, irrigated water etc. were collected and analyzed for the possible presence of organo-chlorine, organo-phosphorous, synthetic pyrethroids, carbamates, herbicides etc. groups of pesticide residues including banned pesticides. Residues were found above maximum residue limit (MRL) in 1085 (2%) samples. No banned pesticides were detected in any of the samples analyzed.

(e): The Registration Committee, constituted under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after satisfying themselves regarding their safety to human, animal and environmental health. From time to time, the Committee, on receipt of additional information on toxicity, etc. reviews the pesticides which are banned/restricted in other countries but continue to be registered for use in India, and takes suitable decision regarding their further continuance.