

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3932

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

BAN ON ENDOSULFAN

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several harmful pesticides and agrochemicals including endosulfan are still in use in agriculture in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is planning a nationwide ban on these pesticides including endosulfan;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study on the use of endosulfan for the purpose of pest control;
- (e) if so, whether the Government is considering to develop and distribute chemical free fertilizers throughout the country and promote organic fertilizers; and
- (f) if so, the subsidy/assistance provided by the Government to various States in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) to (d): Pesticides are inherently toxic by nature and are to be used as per label claim approved by Registration Committee. Pesticides are registered only after establishing their safety to human, animal and environmental health.

A Committee of Experts was constituted on 8th July, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma (Adjunct Professor), Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi, to review the use of neonicotinoid pesticides registered in India and to review 66 pesticides which are currently banned/ restricted/ withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India.

Government of India in compliance of Supreme Court ad interim order passed in writ petition (civil) 213 of 2011 on 13-05-2011 has banned the production, use and sale of Endosulfan all over India till further orders of the court. The Court also appointed a Joint Committee headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Commissioner (Agriculture) to conduct a scientific study on the question whether the use of Endosulfan would cause any serious health hazard to human beings and environmental pollution.

(e): Government is also promoting organic fertilizers through National Project on Organic Farming scheme. Financial assistance upto 25% and 33% of total financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs and Rs.60 lakhs, respectively, is provided as back ended subsidy through NABARD for establishment of bio-pesticides/bio- fertilizers production units and agro waste compost production units respectively.

(f): Year wise subsidy/assistance provided by the Government to various States under National Project on Organic Farming is annexed.