

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2848
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
DEATHS DUE TO PESTICIDE POISONING
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to ascertain the adverse health impact of pesticides being used in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the number of deaths due to pesticide poisoning reported in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): On the direction of National Human Rights Commission(NHRC), National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad, a Research Centre under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted the study on health effects of Endosulfan (one of the pesticides) in Kasargod district of Kerala in 2002. The study showed significantly higher prevalence of neurobehavioral disorders, congenital malformation in females and abnormalities related to male reproductive system in the study group (Padre village, Enmakaje Panchayat) . Details are at annexure-I.

(c): Ministry of Agriculture has informed that as per Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S), collates the data on deaths due to pesticide poisoning (suicidal, accidental, homicidal, occupational) through zonal conferences held during Kharif & Rabi seasons, whereby the States/UTs provide the said information collected by them through their Notified functionaries. The data collated through zonal conferences on death due to pesticides during the last three years & current year is at Annexure-II.

(d): The Ministry of Agriculture undertakes awareness programmes through lectures, trade fairs, posters, pamphlets, booklets and conducts training both safe and judicious use of pesticides as well as for diagnosis and management of pesticide poisoning for doctors.

Besides, Department of Agriculture and cooperation (DAC) has Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) all over the country where farmers are trained/educated regularly in Farmers Field Schools regarding safe use of pesticides. The Government is promoting integrated Pest Management approach to reduce use of pesticides since 1991-92 through 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) in 28 states and one UT (Andaman & Nicobar). CIPMCs conduct pest surveillance, monitor pest incidence/situation, mass produce biological agents for releasing in the fields, conserve natural bio- control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort. These activities are implemented through Farmers Field School (FFSs), training to State Agriculture Extension Officers and NGOs/Private Bodies. For smooth and effective implementation of IPM activities Central Government provides funds to the State Governments./State Agricultural Universities /Krishi Vigyan Kendras/NGOs/Private Bodies etc. The Government registers pesticides after evaluating the safety of the product with respect to human health.

A 'Grow Safe Food' campaign has been initiated to carry the message of safe and judicious use of pesticides to farmers and other stakeholders. A simple message on the five essential principles of judicious pesticide use – application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticides has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application – is sought to be conveyed through hoardings, banners etc. in regional language in Gram Panchayat and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers to stock and distribute/sell approved pesticides, and to advise farmers to follow instructions on label and leaflets of pesticides. Private sector companies are also being exhorted to promote safe and effective use of pesticides through a 'Grow Safe Food' campaign.