

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4566

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

USE OF PESTICIDES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the crops and the number of farmers affected due to excessive use of pesticides during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has any mechanism to conduct surprise checks to ascertain the use of harmful pesticides in the fields on the crops, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the awareness programmes organized by the Government to educate farmers on the judicious and safe use of pesticides during the above period;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the achievements of such awareness programmes during the said period, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage the use of organic fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers to increase agricultural production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a):Proper information among farmers about use of pesticides is necessary for efficacious elimination of pests and diseases. Every manufacturer of pesticides is mandated by law to display labels and leaflets containing all vital and relevant information pertaining to the pesticide on the container for the benefit of farmers. These label and leaflets are also printed in regional languages. No survey has been conducted on the quantum of loss of crop or farmers affected on account of lack of information about pesticides.

(b) & (c): The Government is implementing "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" since 1991-92 through 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 28 States and one UT (Andaman & Nicobar), which conduct Farmers Field Schools to educate farmers on safe and judicious use of pesticides. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers through State Governments 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.

(d):No specific study has been conducted to assess the achievement of such awareness programmes. However, their achievements are assessed through periodical reviews and meeting.

(e):Under the sub component of "Integrated Nutrient Management and Organic Farming of Soil Health Management" component of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, organic fertilizer is being encouraged by providing financial assistance as per Annexure-I.