

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1195
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
USE OF BANNED PESTICIDES
Pathak Smt. Riti

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes a new policy initiatives on pesticides use and awareness drive among the farmers for safe farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many pesticides banned elsewhere in the world are still in use in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Central Government has been promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres situated in different parts of the country. Farmers Field Schools are conducted to create awareness on Integrated Pest Management strategies.

State Governments and stakeholders are being exhorted to support a 'Grow Safe Food' campaign centered around the five essential principles of judicious pesticides use - application of pesticides on the right crop, against pests for which the pesticide has been approved, at the right time, in approved doses, and as per approved method of application through training and media campaigns in Gram Panchayats and rural areas. Advisories have been sent to pesticides dealers to educate them on judicious use of pesticides in accordance with label instructions.

Insecticides Rules 1971 have been amended to bring in improvements in Labels /Leaflets of pesticides containers making them more informative to farmers.

(c) & (d): There are 63 pesticides banned, restricted, withdrawn in some countries which continue to be registered in India for domestic use. However, these pesticides continue to be permitted for domestic use based on expert reviews. The list of such pesticides is annexed.

A Committee of Experts has been constituted on 8th July, 2013 to review possible adverse effects of 6 neonicotinoid pesticides and 63 other pesticides which are banned/ restricted/ withdrawn in one or more countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India.

This Expert Committee has already completed its review of neo nicotinoid pesticides and recommended continuance of the use till robust scientific data on adverse effect on honey bees are brought to light. The Committee has also recommended further scientific studies for assessment of risks to honey bees; and display of cautionary statements like 'Do not spray during flowering of the crop' on formulations for foliar sprays, and "Use with care to avoid air/dust contamination of the cropping area" for seed treatments and soil application/formulations on labels and leaflets of neonicotinoid pesticides. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has accepted the Expert Committee recommendation.