

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7004
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2015
SAFETY OF MOSQUITO REPELLANTS
Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

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

- (a) whether many mosquito repellants being marketed and used by the households are reportedly health hazardous in the country and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any research/study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to regulate sale of mosquito repellants and spread awareness in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that there are numerous mosquito repellants available in the market in the form of mats, coils, lotions, vaporizers etc. The main ingredient used in the repellents is synthetic pyrethroids. These compounds are potent insecticidal agents for vectors and pests. Introduction of insecticides in the country is subject to registration by the Central Insecticide Board, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- (b) & (c): No Research/Study was conducted to monitor the health hazard of these repellants in the country, however, reports of harmful effects of the pyrethroids on their chronic use are known such as pyrethroid induced neurotoxicity. Further, according to an article published by V.P.Sharma, MRC, (ICMR) India in Current Science on "Health hazards of mosquito repellents and safe alternatives" (Current Science, 80(3) (2001) 341-343)), a questionnaire-based study was conducted on use of Type I synthetic pyrethroids based mats, coils, vaporizers and creams in the urban and rural areas in 9 states. A total of 5920 users and medically qualified doctors were interviewed. It was observed that 11.8% (702 subjects) complained of a variety of health problems either soon after or within a few hours of use of repellents. Breathing problems were the most common (4.2%) and this condition was accompanied with headache or eye irritation or both.
- (d): The marketing and sale of Insecticides is regulated by the Central Insecticide Board of the Ministry of Agriculture.