

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4803
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
EFFECT OF PESTICIDES
Khalsa Shri Harinder Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made an evidence based assessment about the impact of chemicals and fertilisers on water, human health and living organisms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has analysed the representations made by the manufacturers of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers for possible inconsistencies and contradictions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome thereon;
- (e) whether the Government plans to issue action plan or has taken steps to monitor usage of pesticides on vegetables and fruits and protect water from contamination by pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d): The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of Insecticides Act 1968 registers insecticides after scrutinizing formulae, verifying claim of efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. No evidence based assessment has been made on the impact of fertilizers on water, human health and living organisms.

(e) & (f): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a central sector Scheme, "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" in food commodities and environmental samples since 2005-06 with the participation of 23 laboratories across the country.

During the period April 2008 to March 2014, samples of vegetable, fruits, spices, cereals, pulses, milk, fish/crustacean, tea, meat, egg and environmental samples such as soil and water were collected and analysed for the possible presence of pesticides residues. A total of 92,996 samples have been analysed by 23 participating laboratories, out of which 1,803 (1.9%) samples were found to have pesticides content above Maximum Residue Limit (MRL). The information is shared with State Governments from time to time so that corrective steps and awareness building exercise is undertaken with regard to judicious use of pesticides. Government is also recommending soil based balanced and integrated nutrient management.

FSSAI (Food Safety Standard Authority of India) has issued circular to Principal Secretaries (Health) and Food Safety Commissioners in States and UTs for periodic inspections and monitoring of major fruit and vegetable markets etc.