

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1550

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014

USE OF PESTICIDES

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that certain pesticides which are widely used in the country are having harmful effect on bees particularly honey bees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said pesticides have been banned in other countries;
- (d) if so, the time by which the use of the said pesticides is likely to be banned in the country; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to ban the harmful pesticides in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Registration Committee constituted under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after establishing their safety to human, animal and environmental health. Technical reviews are carried out from time to time and pesticides are permitted to be used if found safe.

Department of Agriculture had set up a Committee of Experts to study the possible harmful effects of neonicotinoid class of pesticides on honey bees. This Expert Committee recommended continuance of use of neonicotinoids till robust scientific data on adverse effect on honey bees are brought to light. The Committee recommended further scientific studies for assessment of risks to honey bees; and inter alia, display of cautionary statements on labels and leaflets of neonicotinoid pesticides 'Do not spray during flowering of the crop' on all formulations to be used as foliar spray, and "Use with care to avoid air/dust contamination of the cropping area" for seed treatments and soil application/formulations. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has accepted the Expert Committee recommendation.

(c): The European Commission has imposed restriction on application of three neonicotinoids under certain conditions on some crops.

(d): Use of pesticides are banned/restricted on the basis of scientific assessment of risk to humans and animals and matters connected therewith.

(e): The Registration Committee has banned 28 insecticides and their formulations for import, manufacture and use in the country. Besides, 4 insecticide formulations of three insecticides have been banned for import, manufacture and use in the country. In addition, 2 another insecticides and their formulations have been banned for use in the country but their manufacture is allowed for export and there are 13 pesticides which have been restricted for use in the country. 7 insecticides have been withdrawn and 18 insecticides have been refused registration. The Government has set up a Committee of Experts to review continuation of use of pesticides which are banned/restricted in other countries.