

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1288**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018

**SCIENTIFIC AND JUDICIOUS USE OF PESTICIDES**

1288. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is concern over the unscientific and excessive use of pesticides in agriculture that poses a threat both to the environment and human health, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the experts say that their judicious use, combined with safe agricultural practices, is the only way out as the country's growing demand for food cannot be met through organic farming, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether there is an imperative need for promoting scientific use of pesticides in agriculture and relying entirely on organic farming is not a practical solution, as we need to feed a growing population and there must be efforts to create awareness among farmers about the scientific use of pesticides, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): The use of pesticides beyond the permissible limit is likely to manifest in higher residues in the agricultural crops, food commodities and environmental samples. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During 2012-18, a total of 1,21,944 samples have been collected and analyzed, out of which 2,878 (2.4 %) samples were found exceeding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Maximum Residue Level (MRL).

(b) & (c): Yes, judicious use of pesticides along with Good Agricultural Practices are needed to keep the crops free from pests. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is propagating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a major Plant protection measures. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach which aims to keep pest population below economic thresholds level by employing available alternate pest control strategies and techniques viz. preventive measures, cultural, mechanical and biological control. The Department has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the Country. These CIPMCs, inter alia, conduct Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, and safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets.

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