

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Use of banned pesticides

*122. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several pesticides used in the country are banned in many other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons for their continued use in India;

(c) whether Government are actively considering non-registration of several such pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Some of the pesticides which have been banned in some countries are in use in India.

(b) Only insecticides, which are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968, are permitted to be used in India; such registration is granted only after the Registration Committee constituted under the Act has satisfied itself about their safety and efficacy on the basis of relevant data submitted for its consideration. However, the main reasons for continued use are non-availability of safer and cheaper substitutes, comparatively more rapid degradation and

less persistence of pesticides in the tropical environmental conditions in India and the recommended use pattern.

(c) The Registration Committee registers insecticides only after satisfying itself about their bio-efficacy and safety.

(d) Question does not arise.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Most of the recent studies all over the world indicate that 90 per cent chemicals used in the fields do more harm than good, and 90 per cent pesticides usage is unwarranted—a fact which has never been accepted by the multinationals in our country. Recently, most of the developed and under developed countries have banned a dirty dozen insecticides like BHC, DCCP, DDT, EDP, PCP, Aldrim Paraquat, Ethyl Parathion, Chlordane, campchlor chloridine. In view of more toxic conditions of these chemicals, will the Minister totally ban all these chemicals for future use in our country?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: As I have said in my reply, the Registration Committee registers insecticides after being satisfied about the use of these pesticides; and the pesticides that have been banned outside our country, some of them are being used only on the certification of the Registration Committee; the Committee that was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Banerjee has made several recommendations; some of them have been accepted and some of them are under the consideration of the government. We are always very careful to use only those insecticides or pesticides which are not harmful to the people. Therefore, we cannot have a blanket ban on these chemicals at the present stage unless we come to a conclusion that there are some cheaper alternatives.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: During the last year, the Central Insecticides Board has imported nearly 110 tonnes of

methomyl, trizophos and penproppathrin to control the American Bollworm infestation among the cotton crops. This was done in response to an emergency request from the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao after the death of 30 cotton growing farmers in Andhra Pradesh. In this connection. I would like to know from the Minister whether these chemicals were earlier rejected by the Registration Committee? Moreover, the recent experience is that these chemicals were not effective to control the American Bollworm; if so, what is the point in importing 110 tonnes of chemicals?

What is the remedy for controlling the American Wollworm pests for cotton crops?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: These insecticides were imported only to meet the immediate necessity that was projected by the State Government and that they were tried. But if they are not effective, then some other-insecticides will be used; and the adverse effects by the use of these insecticides were looked into; that is why, we have not permitted their further import.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in Karnataka a large scale spurious cotton seeds like DCH 4 has been soled to the farmers valued at Rs. 2-3 crores. It has caused a lot of inconvenience to the farmers in Karnataka due to failure of their crops.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relate to pesticides, not seeds.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: This is also important and a lot of inconvenience has been caused to the farmers. Thousands of farmers have been affected by these seeds.

MR. SPEAKER: That is coming in the second question.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

know that. But, because of the importance I thought that I would bring it to the notice of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: In another way, not flouting the rules.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: I am glad that this question has been put and the supplementaries also. You yourself condemned this practice and wanted the Government to treat these people as social enemies. Why is it that even when an expert committee has made certain recommendations against the use of some of these pesticides the Government has thought it fit to accept only some of their recommendations and not to consider some other recommendations? May I suggest that, after all, because neither the Minister nor ourselves are experts, the farmers are the sufferers and some of their complaints have been received by the Government and the expert committee has considered them, they should at least give consideration to their recommendations and accept them instead of using their discretion?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, the experts committee has submitted four reports and if I am permitted to give the details, in respect of each pesticide, for example, DDT that report is under active consideration and I do hope that a decision will be taken soon. About BHC the Government have accepted their recommendations and the main recommendation is restriction of its use at the present stage. We have to restrict it. About the other seven or eight pesticides the reports were received in July 1987 and December 1988. These two reports are being considered by the Government and I hope that we shall come to a conclusion at an early date.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: This is a very important question, of course. There are certain restricted pesticides being used in the tea plantation in Assam and these pesticides are very much injurious to hu-

man beings. Instructions are there that the persons who spray these insecticides have to be certain articles like spectacles, gloves, shoes, and all those things. But these articles have never been provided to the workers who spray these pesticides. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps he proposes to take when these pesticides are used by the industrialists and for the non-providing of these articles to the workers who spray these pesticides?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: It is expected that the tea garden owners will provide sufficient protection to the persons who are spraying these insecticides and if there is any complaint, we shall look into them.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: There is a complaint.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijayaraghavan.

AN HON. MEMBER: One last question.

MR. SPEAKER: This was the last question.

There is a time limit for every question.

[Interruptions]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question Choudhary Saheb. Before you reply to the next question, I would like to say this much to you that you tighten up your control. Whatever things are produced, should be genuine. Please get it examined thoroughly.

[English]

Introduction of 'kalyani' paddy seed

*123. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a paddy seed called 'Kalyani' which matures in 60 days was introduced in Orissa and Kerala;

(b) whether this seed was developed in the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL: (a) Yes, Sir. A new early maturing paddy variety Kalyani-II was tested under the number CR 666-36-4 in Orissa, Kerala but after final evaluation, it was recommended for adoption in upland and post-flooded situations in Orissa, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Kalyani-II is an extra early variety maturing in about 60 days. It has long, bold grains and yields, on an average, 2.5 to 3.0 t/ha of paddy.

[English]

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, want to know in which area in Kerala, 'Kalyani' seed was tested and what was the result?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, state-wise details are available with me. If he so desires, I can give him the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Please place them on the table.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Yes, Sir, I am placing them on the table because these are very lengthy.

If he requires the figures in respect of