

[*Translation*]

My question is, therefore, relevant.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : Making an assessment is not the work of our department. We, of course, ascertain whether the house has been actually constructed or not.

[*English*]

Chemical Examination of Pesticides

*165. **PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** Will The Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether chemical examination of pesticides supplied by various agencies to the States is being done by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, whether Government have brought out a report on the brands which are useful or effective for various species of fruits in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Most of the State Governments have their own pesticides testing laboratories and can test the samples of materials purchased by them. The Ministry has been earmarking testing in capacity in favour of States/Union Territories not having the same of having inadequate capacity.

(b) No, Sir. However, the compendia on the approved usages of pesticides registered based on chemical/common name under the Insecticides Act, 1968 against pests and diseases of agricultural crops including fruits have already been brought out.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I do not feel satisfied with the Minister's answer. Rather the hon. Minister has raised a larger question. In response to my question whether the Ministry of Agriculture does the chemical examination of pesticides supplied by various agencies, the Minister has said that the Ministry does not arrange chemical examination of pesticides. He says that most of the State Governments have their own pesticide testing laboratories. It seems rather funny that the Union

Minister of Agriculture does not consider it advisable to have examination of pesticides through a reliable agency. Therefore, there is a lot of adulteration in various brands of pesticides and scab in orchards in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh has gone on unchecked. But the most important thing is the health of the people. In view of gas tragedy in Bhopal, will not the Ministry of Agriculture go into the question of production of pesticides and have the examination of pesticides done centrally? That is my question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : My answer to both the parts (a) and (b) of the question was precise. I do not know how the hon. Member can find it controversial, because I said there is no provision of it with the Government of India. But when we introduce any pesticide or insecticide, it has to be brought under the Schedule of the Act operating. The Act that I mentioned in the main part of my answer is Insecticides Act 1968. The first step of introduction of insecticides in the country is to bring it in to the Schedule of the Insecticides Act so as to make it within the purview of the act.

This is done by the Central Government in the Ministry of Agriculture on the recommendations of the Central Insecticides Board constituted under the Act under the chairmanship of the Director General of Health Services, Government of India. Then, Sir, the Board before recommending inclusion of that particular agro-chemical in the Schedule, considers the merits of each chemical on the basis of information supplied by the manufacturer or the supplier. This is how an insecticide is included in the Schedule. And then, the application goes before the Registration Committee which is also under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. And then, the Registration Committee after going into various conditions mentioned in the Rule itself, registers the particular insecticide or pesticide and after that, it is being allowed to be distributed or to be used by the farmers.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, the production of these pesticides is very vital to the agricultural industry. After the Bhopal tragedy, the Ministry should have risen to the occasion and examined this

question. They have not done. Sir, I raise this question. Will the Minister come forward with an amendment to the Insecticides Act of 1968 to provide for chemical examination of insecticides by the Union Agriculture Ministry, as also to regulate distribution of these pesticides. There is a lot of corruption. Adulteration brings in scab diseases. There is a lot of corruption in fixing agencies. As is alleged, Agriculture Ministers in various States, in organising these agencies, get lot of money. In my own State, it is the sons of a Minister who get these agencies. Does the Minister have latest information on that?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, this Act is implemented by the respective States and they are authorised to make sample survey. They have their own laboratories. In the Central Government, under section 16 of the Insecticides Act have set up a Central we have two insecticides laboratory at Faridabad with a Branch each at Central Plant Protection Training Institute, Hyderabad and the Quarantine Fumigation Station, Bombay. The Central laboratory is extending facility for the analysis of the insecticide samples received from the State authorities under the earmarking system.

Similarly, the States have their own testing laboratories which test the insecticides or pesticides supplied to the farmers. Wherever cases of any malpractices detected, proceedings are launched, the people are booked and the punishment is awarded.

About this particular case of Jammu and Kashmir, if the hon. Member can send me an instance, we can have it looked into.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In view of the widespread adulteration of pesticides and also in view of the fact that agencies of the pesticides belong to the persons from the families of VIPs, will the Government agree for double examination of these chemicals by instituting its own machinery? Does the Minister know that** of Jammu and Kashmir also has the agency of pesticides?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am sorry, the individual cases cannot be thrown at us like this. But as I said,

wherever any malpractice is detected, action is taken under the Act and the person is booked.

I have the figures with me . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I want to make an observation. Making reference to any person in this manner is a sort of allegation, I think. Therefore, this part will not go on record.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I did not make any allegation. I made an enquiry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Even mentioning name for telling this sort of thing is more or less an allegation.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I made an enquiry. Let him deny.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are mentioning the specific something specific and this is a sort of allegation.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is not an allegation. He want to know the fact. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I was giving you the instance. In 1983-84 (prosecution was launched) in Andhra Pradesh in 40 cases; in Haryana in 40 cases; in Karnataka in 3 cases; in Maharashtra in 14 cases; In Punjab in 11 cases; in Rajasthan in 25 cases; in Tamil Nadu in 43 cases; and in Uttar Pradesh in 23 cases. In all, 199 cases were instituted in the year 1983-84 on the charges of reportedly having supplied the misbranded pesticides or insecticides.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that adulteration is going on a large scale and the farmers are cheated to the extent of Rupees Hundreds of crores in the matter of pesticides, will the hon. Minister take some more steps to prevent adulteration in addition to the steps or the methods which he has already announced?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can ask him afterwards. The Question Hour is over.