

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA  
ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2023

**Bill No. XX of 2023**

THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (BAN ON HARMFUL  
CHEMICALS) BILL, 2023

A

BILL

*to provide for sustainable agriculture by banning the use of harmful chemicals in farming and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

**1.** (1) This Act may be called the Sustainable Agriculture (Ban on Harmful Chemicals) Act, 2023. Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Sustainable agriculture by banning the use of harmful chemicals in farming practices.

**2.** The Central Government shall, within a period of one year from the date of coming into force of this Act, take such comprehensive measures for taking India on the path of sustainable agriculture by permanently banning the use of harmful agriculture chemicals including pesticides, herbicides, weedicides and other formulations specified in the Schedule to this Act in farming and such other practices in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act. 5

Act not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

**3.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force.

Power to make rules.

**4. (1)** The Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 10

(2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. 15

## THE SCHEDULE

[See section 2]

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|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid             | 33. Iprodione                 |
| 2. Acephate                                    | 34. Kasugamycin               |
| 3. Aluminium Phosphide                         | 35. Lindane (Gamma HCH)       |
| 4. Atrazine                                    | 36. Linuron                   |
| 5. Benfuracarb                                 | 37. Malathion                 |
| 6. Bifenthrin                                  | 38. Mancozeb                  |
| 7. Butachlor                                   | 39. Mepiquat Chloride         |
| 8. Captafol                                    | 40. Metaldehyde               |
| 9. Captan                                      | 41. Methomyl                  |
| 10. Carbendazim                                | 42. Methyl Bromide            |
| 11. Carbofuron                                 | 43. Monocrotophos             |
| 12. Carbosulfan                                | 44. Nickel Chloride           |
| 13. Chlorefenapyr                              | 45. Oxyfluorfen               |
| 14. Chlorothalonil                             | 46. Paradiclorobenzene (PCCB) |
| 15. Chlorpyrifos                               | 47. Paraquat Dichloride       |
| 16. Cypermethrin                               | 48. Pendimethalin             |
| 17. Dalapon                                    | 49. Phosphamidon              |
| 18. Deltamethrin                               | 50. Pretilachlor              |
| 19. Dezomet                                    | 51. Profenophos               |
| 20. Dichloro Diphenyl<br>Trichloroethane (DDT) | 52. Propargite                |
| 21. Dicofol                                    | 53. Propineb                  |
| 22. Diflubenzuron                              | 54. Quinolphos                |
| 23. Dimethoate                                 | 55. Simazine                  |
| 24. Dinocap                                    | 56. Sulfosulfurone            |
| 25. Diuron                                     | 57. Thiodicarb                |
| 26. Etofenprox                                 | 58. Thiophanate Methyl        |
| 27. Fenitrothion                               | 59. Thiram                    |
| 28. Fenpropathrin                              | 60. Triazophos                |
| 29. Ferbam                                     | 61. Warfarin                  |
| 30. Formothion                                 | 62. Zinc Phosphate            |
| 31. Glyphosate                                 | 63. Zineb                     |
| 32. Glufosinate                                | 64. Ziram                     |

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The problem of pests, insects, weeds, plant pathogens in agriculture, which has resulted in the decline of production of various crops and sometime even destruction of the entire crop, has been addressed, to a great extent, by the use of chemical pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and weedicides. However, the use of these agricultural chemicals has a detrimental effect on non-targeted organisms and humans, including the environment. This threat to humans, environment and non-targeted species by the use of these agricultural chemicals needs our serious attentions because the harmful effects of these chemicals come to the fore after a time lag which may be a few years or even longer.

A number of studies found that those who work closely with pesticides (such as farmers, farm labourers, pesticide applicators) suffer an increased risk of a variety of diseases relating to the neurological, behavioural, reproductive and developmental system due to prolonged exposure to chemical pesticides. These illnesses include leukaemia, lung cancer and non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma besides obesity, diabetes, Alzheimer's dementia, Parkinson's, asthma, chronic bronchitis, autism, hormonal dysfunction and psychological disorders. As a direct result, 20,000 people die of pesticide poisoning annually in India. Even those who are not directly involved in the agricultural industry are exposed to dangerous pesticides through run-off that contaminates water sources, including drinking water. Further, the use of these chemicals and exposure to them may also stunt the mental and physical health of children thereby affecting the future generations of the country even before they are born.

Some of these agrichemicals like glyphosate and glufosinate are quite deadly and are capable of triggering a number of acute and chronic health issues in human beings and animals. Evidence suggests decrease of male fertility and, in particular, of sperm quality upon exposure. Risk of cancer, adverse effects on reproduction and development are the major concerns based on the evidence from animal studies.

India needs to have a clear roadmap for sustainable agriculture, and in order to achieve this, there is an urgent necessity to permanently ban the use of such agricultural chemicals (pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and weedicides) which are severely harmful to humans, environment and other species. Moreover, the permanent ban on these agrochemicals will open up more avenues for export of chemical free agricultural produce to countries where these chemicals are already banned.

It is also important to highlight here that many harmful chemical pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and weedicides, which have been banned internationally, are not banned in India. In view of the fact stated above and in order to make our agriculture completely organic and sustainable, this Bill seeks to permanently ban the use of these harmful agricultural chemicals in India's farms and farming.

Hence, this Bill.

ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE.

#### MEMORANDUM OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 4 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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*(Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde, M.P.)*