

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1469
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2022

USE OF BIO-PESTICIDES IN AGRICULTURE

1469. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to formulate a concrete policy to promote the use of bio-pesticides in agriculture so as to enhance the production of toxic/chemical free agri-products in the country and to provide healthy and natural food to the people of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India is complying with the International quality standards in respect to use of pesticides in agriculture; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) The Registration Committee of the Central Insecticide Board has formulated simplified guidelines for registration of bio pesticides. Provisional registration for bio-pesticides is being granted under Section 9(3B) of the Insecticides Act, 1968. However, unlike chemical pesticides, the applicant is allowed to commercialize the bio-pesticide product during the provisional registration for two years to begin with. Thereafter, extension is granted thrice on yearly basis, to generate requisite data to be submitted for permanent registration under section 9(3) of the Insecticide Act, 1968.

The guidelines for data submission have been simplified and the data generated by 1st time introducers of strain of a bio-pesticide, if submitted by subsequent registrant, is accepted as such. The technology and data generated by original registrant is permitted to be used/transferred to other applicant/stakeholder and can also be shared among members of respective associations.

The guidelines for registration of already registered strains were further relaxed by the Registration Committee in its 371st meeting held on 16.12.2016. Presently, direct 9(3)

registration is granted for bio pesticides and no technical data is required except for confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM), MaunathBhanjan (UP) and quality of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad.

The 36 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) in different States and UTs conduct various training programmes such as Farmers Field Schools (FFS), Kisan Gosthis, two days Orientation Training Programmes(OTP), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Exhibitions to sensitize farmers about need-based, safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides and follow the label claims as approved by the Registration Committee(RC). The farmers are also trained about the latest IPM technologies such as Agro-Ecosystem Analysis (AESA) based decision making and management of pest/ disease situations; importance of conservation and augmentation of bio-control agents and resorting to safer alternative plant protection measures such as bio-pesticides rather than solely relying on chemical pesticides for managing the crop pests.

(c) India follows harmonized guidelines for registration of pesticides in-line with Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Registration Committee formulates guidelines following harmonization between the international standards and Indian requirements for the registration of bio pesticides.

India being signatory to many global conventions under WHO, FAO, UNO such as Rotterdam convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Stockholm Convention, Chemical Weapon Convention, abide by the rules and regulations of these conventions. Further, the use and requirement of pesticide registration are also being harmonized with Global Harmonizing System (GHS) classification on toxicity classification, CODEX convention on pesticide residue and WHO, FAO, OECD principles of pesticide regulation. The pesticide companies mandatorily follow the PIC procedure on chemicals Import/Export. They also abide by the National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC), inspections and declarations apart from following the national legislations.

(d) Does not arise.
