

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

AERIAL SPRAYING OF CHEMICALS IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD

345. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM

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

- (a) the status of Pesticide Management Bill;
- (b) the status of proposal to ban 27 pesticides;
- (c) whether Government would review all the remaining pesticides that are registered for use in the country with the same criteria used for assessing the 27 chemicals and come up with stringent action for protecting human health and environment; and
- (d) whether Government has taken productive steps to stop the increasing use of aerial Spraying of agro-chemicals causing damage to the environment, having taken into account the instance of Kasaragod district in Kerala reeling under such impact due to aerial spraying of Endosulfan, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) The Pesticide Management Bill (PMB) 2020 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March 2020. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture by the Speaker, Lok Sabha in consultation with Chairman Rajya Sabha for examination and report. The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2021-22) presented the Thirty Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020' to Lok Sabha on 21.12.21 and laid it on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 21.12.21. The recommendations of the Standing Committee on PMB-2020 are under examination in the Department of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).
- (b) Department of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), published a draft notification vide S.O. 1512(E) dated 14th May 2020 with regard to prohibition of 27 pesticides to invite objections and suggestions from stakeholders. The Government of India constituted an Expert Committee (EC) in January 2021, to consider the large number of objections and suggestions received in response to the draft notification and submit its report. The Expert Committee submitted

its final report on 30th August 2022. The recommendations of the Expert Committee are under active consideration of the Department.

- (c) Central Government conducts review of registered pesticides with respect to their safety and efficacy on receipt of new studies/ reports/ references/ information either by its own investigation or any report received from the State Government in accordance to the provisions under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The review is conducted keeping in view the technical and scientific requirements, safety, toxicity and efficacy concerns, alternatives available, farmers' interest etc.
- (d) Spraying of pesticides on the recommended crops is done with safety precautions as approved by the Registration Committee (RC) constituted u/s 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968. RC has approved doses and method of application of pesticides including Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for spraying pesticides through drones. Further, with the objective of educating, orienting and training of farming community about the judicious use of chemical pesticides and their use as per the prescriptions given in the label and leaflets, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach through Central IPM Centres across 28 states and 2 UTs, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) and States, to make farmers aware on the importance of safe and judicious use of pesticides.
