

O.I.H.

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 29
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03/02/2023

DISCOURAGING USE OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

*29#. DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to have an effective monitoring mechanism to prevent the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides by the farmers through surprise visits to the agricultural fields, in view of the fact that said substances happen to be a life hazard for humans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 29 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023 REGARDING DISCOURAGING USE OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS .

(a) to (c): Agricultural productivity plays critical role in ensuring the level of food security, which in turn, requires fertilizer as one of the vital input. Balance and judicious use of fertilizer as per recommended doses does not have any adverse effect on the health of humans. It is the Government endeavour to promote judicious use of chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures. To achieve this objective, Government is implementing Soil Health Card Scheme of National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility to provide soil test based fertilizer use recommendations to farmers. Government has an effective monitoring mechanism through network of soil testing labs including Government and private entrepreneurs. Soil health card provides the information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility. Soil Health Card recommendations is one of the important criteria for assessment of fertilisers for Kharif and Rabi Seasons.

Demonstrations about balanced use of fertilisers based on soil health card recommendations and training to the farmers on proper and integrated use of fertilisers are integral part of the scheme. Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for training of farmers, demonstration on farmer fields and organizing farmer melas.

Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmers trainings and 7425 farmers melas are organized/conducted under the programme. Alongwith State/District agriculture machinery and panchayats, village level rural development workers like Krishi Sakhis, Pasu Sakhis are involved in educating farmers on the right use of fertilisers. ICAR also imparts training, organizes from line demonstrations to educate farmers on this aspect. Farmers are also being encouraged to use technology i.e drones etc. in fertilizer application in order to ensure optimal use of fertilizer.

Besides above for sustainable agriculture, Government is also implementing schemes Pramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Value Chain Development in the North-Eastern Region for encouraging the use of organic farming in the country. A National Mission for promotion of natural farming has also been launched recently to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and to improve the soil health.

Pesticides play an important role in sustaining agricultural production by protecting crops from pests and disease. Availability of safe and efficacious pesticides and their judicious use by the farming community is critical to long term sustainability of agricultural production and productivity. The Registration Committee while granting registration as per the provisions of the Insecticide Act, 1968, conducts a complete evaluation of pesticide on parameters, studies and data with respect to chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing and accordingly approves the details of doses, crops, precautionary measures, antidotes etc on Label and leaflets for each pesticide for its safe use. However, pesticides are inherently toxic and need a well ordered system of management and regulation. In India the Insecticides/ Pesticides are regulated under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971. At present, 11080 officers of various State Government and 191 Central Government officers are notified as Insecticide Inspector to check the quality of pesticides and its management. Surprise visits are not conducted at fields of farmers as the Act exempts the use of any insecticide for own household purposes or for kitchen garden or in respect of any land under his cultivation.

There are 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) under Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage which conduct surveys in the farmers fields and organise various training programmes (Farmers Field Schools (FFS), 2 Day & 5 Day Human Resource Development Programmes and Seed treatment campaigns) to make the farmers aware about safe and judicious use of pesticides. Farmers are also encouraged to use various ecologically sustainable pest management approaches rather than relying only on chemical pesticides. Use of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents as on alternatives to chemical pesticides in plant pest management is also being promoted.
