

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 509
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2023**

Action against the supply of spurious/counterfeit chemicals

509. SHRI K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, be pleased to state:

- a. whether the Government has received any complaints regarding supply of spurious/counterfeit chemicals that are either locally manufactured or imported in the country;
- b. if so, the details thereof;
- c. whether the Government has fixed any standards for maintaining the quality of chemicals;
- d. if so, whether Government has taken any action against any individual or company involved in supply of spurious/counterfeit chemicals; and
- e. if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA)**

(a)&(b): Broadly the Chemical sector is de-licensed and de-regulated. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has notified Insecticide Act, 1968 wherein, there is no provision of spurious pesticides, however, under section 3k, the definition of "misbranded" pesticide is clearly defined. Further to ensure the availability of quality pesticides to end-user/farmers, provisions have been made under Rule 9 of the Insecticides Rules, 1971 that no insecticide can be manufactured, stocked, sold or exhibited for sale without a license granted by the licensing officer appointed by the State Governments after satisfying the availability of necessary plant and machinery, safety devices, first aid-facility, in the premises where the insecticides is proposed to be manufactured or sold or distributed.

As per the Insecticide Act, 1968, the quality control of pesticides is primarily a responsibility of the States being the licensing authority. At present, 11080 officers of various State Governments are notified as Insecticide Inspectors to check the quality of pesticides and its management. To ensure availability of quality pesticides, 70 pesticide testing laboratories (SPTL) and 6 State Bio-Pesticide Testing Laboratories (SBTLs) are established in 25 States and 2 Union Territories with a total annual capacity to test 77975 samples.

The Central Government supplements the resources of State/UT Governments in quality control testing of pesticides. At present, 191 Central

Government officers are notified as Central Insecticide Inspector and there exists one Central Insecticide Laboratory and two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) with an annual testing capacity of 4,700 samples.

(c): Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) formulates standards for chemicals and most of the standards are presently voluntary in nature. To ensure manufacture and import of quality chemicals, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has initiated an exercise to make BIS standards as mandatory for some chemicals under Section 16 of BIS Act, 2016. Accordingly, D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals has notified 61 Quality Control Orders to make BIS standards as mandatory so far.

(d)&(e): In last 5 years (2017-18 to 2021-22), Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has analyzed 3,40,479 pesticide samples and 3639 cases have been prosecuted against the firms who were found involved in the manufacture, sale and illegal import of sub-standard/low quality pesticides and in 137 cases the firms have been convicted by the Hon'ble Court after finding guilty. Details are attached at **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Details of Pesticide Samples tested for quality control in last 5 years (2017-18 to 2021-22)

	Analyzed	Misbranded	Prosecution Launched	Accused convicted
2017-18	67492	1556	975	38
2018-19	68078	1747	1191	14
2019-20	70071	1797	627	43
2020-21	55219	1112	314	24
2021-22	79619	2253	532	18
Total	340479	8465	3639	137
