

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 978
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2023

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS ON FOOD CROPS

978. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware of facts that indiscriminate use of antibiotics on food crops in parts of the country is leading to the development and spread of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) among the crops;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether Government had received a correspondence from Government of Maharashtra regarding the combination product of antibiotic Streptomycin Sulphate + Tetracycline Hydrochloride (antibiotic);
- (d) Whether any Steps have been taken to check the rampant use of antibiotics on food crops and promote alternatives healthy practices by the farmers; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): No report has been received from any part of the country regarding indiscriminate use of antibiotics in food crops leading to the development and spread of Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) among crops. However, the matter of use of antibiotics was considered by Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (RC) *suo moto* to find out safer and better alternatives.

The Government of India has published the Gazette notification; S.O. 5295 (E) dated 17.12.2021(Annexure-I) for prohibition of Streptomycin + Tetracycline in agriculture. The comments/suggestions received on the draft notification have been placed before the RC on 16.03.2022. The RC sought comments from ICMR on this matter considering the products being responsible for antimicrobial resistance. This was supported by ICMR showing concerns of the AMR transmission. On request of RC, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research through its institutions is working on safe and better alternatives of Streptomycin sulphate + Tetracycline hydrochloride.

**[TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, PART-II,
SECTION-3, SUB-SECTION (ii)]**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare)

Notification

New Delhi, the 17th December, 2021.

S.O. 5295 (E)- Whereas, the Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (46 of 1968) (hereinafter referred to as ‘the said Act’) had constituted a Sub-Committee to explore the possibility of phasing out of antibiotic or antibacterial substances for use in agriculture if alternatives are available, as continued use of these substances in agriculture may pose risk of development of resistance to these antibiotics in human beings and animals;

And whereas, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section 2 of Section 27 of the said Act, after considering the recommendations of the said Sub-Committee and after consultation with the Registration Committee set up under the said Act, proposes to make the following draft Order, which is hereby published for information of all persons likely to be affected thereby and notice is accordingly hereby given that the said draft Order shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of forty five days from the date on which the copies of the Gazette of India containing this Order are make available to the public;

And whereas, any person desirous of making any objection or suggestion in respect of the said draft Order may submit the same for consideration of the Central Government, within the period so specified, to the Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 27 of the said, the Central Government hereby propose to makes the following Order, namely:-

DRAFT ORDER

1. Short title and commencement.- (i) This Order may be called the Prohibition of Streptomycin + Tetracycline in agriculture Order, 2021.
(ii) It shall come into force on the date of its final publication in the Official Gazette.
2. No person shall import, manufacture or formulate Streptomycin + Tetracycline for use in agriculture in India with effect from the 1st February, 2022.
3. No new certificate of registration to manufacture, import or formulate of Streptomycin + Tetracycline for use in Agriculture shall be issued with effect from the 1st February, 2022.
4. The use of Streptomycin + Tetracycline shall be completely banned in agriculture with effect from 01.01.2024.
5. Every State Government shall take all such steps under the provisions of the said Act and rules framed there under, as it considers necessary, for the execution of this order in the state.

[F. No. 13035/12/2020-PP-I]

(Dr. Pramod Kumar Meherda)
Joint Secretary (Plant Protection)