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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4307

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2017

USE OF HARMFUL PESTICIDES IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

4307. SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ¨ããè

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that extremely harmful insecticides have been found in 12.5 percent of vegetables, fruits and milk and other eatable items in the country, if so, thedetails thereof;
- (b) whether the banned chemicals are used in production of fruits and vegetables and also in early ripening of fruits and vegetables in the country, which have an adverse impact on human health, livestock and environment;
- (c) if so, the provision laid down by the Government to prevent such activities of artificial ripening of fruits and vegetables;
- (d) the details of action taken by the Government under the above provision during the each of the last three years and the current year;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any awareness campaign in this regard, if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ban the use of harmful pesticides in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

‡ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ¨ããÊã¾ã ½ãñâ À㕾ã ½ãâ¨ããè (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During 2013-16, a total of 59,511 samples were analyzed, out of which residues above Maximum Residue Limit (MRL), as fixed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), were found out in 1499 (2.5 %) samples. The commodity wise breakup is given at **Annexure I**. None of the banned pesticides were detected under the MPRNL scheme.

(c): As per the information provided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011- "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas.

Provided that fruits maybe artificially ripened by use of Ethylene gas at a concentration up to 100ppm (100 I/L) depending upon the crop, variety and maturity".

- (d): As per the information provided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), no separate centralized enforcement data regarding presence of pesticides residues and ripening of fruits and vegetables with banned chemicals is available. However, based on information made available by the States and UTs, who are primarily responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006, and rules made there under, details of food samples analyzed, found nonconforming to the norms and action taken during the last three years is at **Annexure II**.
- (e): A write up on harmful effects of consuming fruits artificially ripened with Calcium Carbide is uploaded on the FSSAI website for awareness of the public at large. FSSAI also jointly issued advertisements on all India basis in newspapers with Department of Consumer Affairs under the aegis of "Jago Grahak Jago" on artificially ripening of fruits. FSSAI has also asked State Food Safety Commissioners of all States/UTs to undertake awareness campaign on the pesticides/insecticides residues in fruits and vegetables in order to educate consumers. Consumers are also being made aware of need for washing fruits & vegetables before consumption to avoid any harmful effects of pesticides etc. through social media, print media, events, fairs etc.
- (f): The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. Based on which, the Central Government has banned/restricted certain pesticides/insecticides for use in the country. The details are at **Annexure III.** Further, in July 2013, an Expert Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Anupam Verma, Former National Professor, IARI, New Delhi to review 66 pesticides which are either banned or restricted in one or more countries of the world but continued to be registered in India. Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, vide its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, has invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are at **Annexure IV**.

ANNEXURE I
COMMODITY WISE DETAILS OF THE SAMPLES ANALYSED DURING 2013-16

Commodity	Samples analyzed	Samples above FSSAI MRL
Fish/Marine	2506	6
Fruits	6838	98
Meat/Egg	1281	0
Milk	1368	0
Pulses	2205	2
Rice	3090	186
Spices	3849	292
Surface Water	1712	0
Tea	522	16
Vegetables	30219	827
Water	3450	0
Wheat	2471	72
Grand Total	59511	1499 (2.5%)

DETAILS OF FOOD SAMPLES ANALYSED, FOUND NON CONFORMING TO THE FSS NORMS AND ACTION THEREON

ANNEXURE II

Sr. No	Year	Total No. of samples taken	No. of Samples Analyse d	amples Samples found		ases hed	No. of Conv	ictions/ Penalties
				and Misbranded	Criminal	Civil	Conviction s	Penalties/ Amount raised in Rupees
1.	2013-14	72,994	72,200	13,571	3105	7130	913	2950/ Rs. 7,34,45,974
2.	2014-15	84537	75282	14716	2687	7988	1402	2795/ Rs.11,28,45,522
3.	2015-16	71,119	65,833	14,283	1,656	8196	516	3,483/ Rs. 21,19,08,436

LIST OF PESTICIDES WHICH ARE BANNED, REFUSED REGISTRATION AND RESTRICTED IN USE I. PESTICIDES / FORMULATIONS BANNED IN INDIA

	Pesticides Banned for manufacture, import and use .								
	1.	Aldicarb		22.	Pentachloro Nitrobenzene (PCNB)				
	2.	Aldrin		23.	. Pentachlorophenol				
	3.	Benzene Hexachloride		24.	Phenyl Mercury Acetate)			
	4.	Calcium Cyanide		25.	Sodium Methane Arson	ate			
	5.	Chlorbenzilate		26.	Tetradifon				
	6.	Chlordane		27.	Toxaphene(Camphechl	or)			
	7.	Chlorofenvinphos		28.	28. Trichloro acetic acid (TCA)				
	8.	Copper Acetoarsenite	B.	Pesti	icide formulations bann	ed fo	r import, manufacture and use		
	9.	Dibromochloropropane		1.	Carbofuron 50% SP				
	10.	Dieldrin		2.	2. Methomyl 12.5% L				
A.	11.	Endrin		3.	Methomyl 24% formulation				
	12.	Ethyl Mercury Chloride		4.	4. Phosphamidon 85% SL				
	13.	Ethyl Parathion	C.	Pesticide / Pesticide formulations banned for use but continued to manufacture for export					
	14.	Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)		1. Captafol 80% Powder					
	15.	Heptachlor		2.	Nicotin Sulfate				
	16.	Lindane (Gamma-HCH)	D.	Pest	Pesticides Withdrawn				
	17.	Maleic Hydrazide		1.	Dalapon	6.	Simazine		
	18.	Menazon		2.	Ferbam	7.	Sirmate		
	19.	Metoxuron		3.	Formothion	8.	Warfarin		
	20.	Nitrofen		4.	Nickel Chloride				
	21.	Paraquat Dimethyl Sulphate		5.	5. Paradichlorobenzene				

II. PESTICIDES REFUSED REGISTRATION

S.No.	Name of Pesticides			
1.	2,4, 5-T	10.	EPN	
2.	Ammonium Sulphamate	11.	Fentin Acetate	
3.	Azinphos Ethyl	12.	Fentin Hydroxide	
4.	Azinphos Methyl	13.	Lead Arsenate	
5.	Binapacryl	14.	Leptophos (Phosvel)	
6.	Calcium Arsenate	15.	Mephosfolan	
7.	Carbophenothion	16.	Mevinphos (Phosdrin)	
8.	Chinomethionate (Morestan)	17.	Thiodemeton / Disulfoton	
9.	Dicrotophos	18.	Vamidothion	

III. PESTICIDES RESTRICTED FOR USE IN THE COUNTRY

S.No.	Name of Pesticides	Details of Restrictions
1.	Aluminium Phosphide	The Pest Control Operations with Aluminium Phosphide may be

		undertaken only by Govt./Govt. undertakings / Govt. Organizations / pest control operators under the strict supervision of Govt. Experts or experts whose expertise is approved by the Plant Protection Advisor to Govt. of India except ¹ Aluminium Phosphide 15 % 12 g tablet and ² Aluminum Phosphide 6 % tablet. [RC decision circular F No. 14-11(2)-CIR-II (Vol. II) dated 21-09-1984 and G.S.R. 371(E) dated 20 th may 1999]. ¹ Decision of 282 nd RC held on 02-11-2007 and, ² Decision of 326 th RC held on 15-02-2012. The production, marketing and use of Aluminium Phosphide tube packs with a capacity of 10 and 20 tablets of 3 g each of Aluminium Phosphide are banned completely. (S.O.677 (E) dated 17 th July, 2001)
2.	Captafol	The use of Captafol as foliar spray is banned. Captafol shall be used only as seed dresser. (S.O.569 (E) dated 25 th July, 1989) The manufacture of Captafol 80 % powder for dry seed treatment (DS) is banned for use in the country except manufacture for export. (S.O.679 (E) dated 17 th July, 2001)
3.	Cypermethrin	Cypermethrin 3 % Smoke Generator, is to be used only through Pest Control Operators and not allowed to be used by the General Public. [Order of Hon,ble High Court of Delhi in WP(C) 10052 of 2009 dated 14-07-2009 and LPA-429/2009 dated 08-09-2009]
4.	Dazomet	The use of Dazomet is not permitted on Tea. (S.O.3006 (E) dated 31 st Dec, 2008)
5.	Diazinon	Diazinon is banned for use in agriculture except for household use. (S.O.45 (E) dated 08 th Jan, 2008)
6.	Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT)	The use of DDT for the domestic Public Health Programme is restricted up to 10,000 Metric Tonnes per annum, except in case of any major outbreak of epidemic. M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., the sole manufacturer of DDT in the country may manufacture DDT for export to other countries for use in vector control for public health purpose. The export of DDT to Parties and State non-Parties shall be strictly in accordance with the paragraph 2(b) article 3 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). (S.O.295 (E) dated 8 th March, 2006) Use of DDT in Agriculture is withdrawn. In very special circumstances warranting the use of DDT for plant protection work, the state or central Govt. may purchase it directly from M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. to be used under expert Governmental supervision. (S.O.378 (E) dated 26 th May, 1989)
7.	Fenitrothion	The use of Fenitrothion is banned in Agriculture except for locust control in scheduled desert area and public health. (S.O.706 (E) dated 03 rd May, 2007)
8.	Fenthion	The use of Fenthion is banned in Agriculture except for locust control, household and public health. (S.O.46 (E) dated 08 th Jan, 2008)
9.	Methoxy Ethyl Mercuric Chloride (MEMC)	The use of MEMC is banned completely except for seed treatment of potato and sugarcane. (S.O.681 (E) dated 17 th July, 2001)
10.	Methyl Bromide	Methyl Bromide may be used only by Govt./Govt. undertakings/Govt. Organizations / Pest control operators under the strict supervision of Govt. Experts or Experts whose expertise is approved by the Plant Protection Advisor to Govt. of India. [G.S.R.371 (E) dated 20 th May, 1999 and earlier RC decision]
11.	Methyl Parathion	Methyl Parathion 50 % EC and 2% DP formulations are banned for use on fruits and vegetables. (S.O.680 (E) dated 17 th July, 2001) The use of Methyl Parathion is permitted only on those crops approved by the Registration Committee where honeybees are not acting as a pollinators. (S.O.658 (E) dated 04 th Sep., 1992.)
12.	Monocrotophos	Monocrotophos is banned for use on vegetables. (S.O.1482 (E) dated 10 th Oct, 2005)
13.	Sodium Cyanide	The use of Sodium Cyanide shall be restricted for Fumigation of Cotton bales under expert supervision approved by the Plant Protection Advisor to Govt. of India.

(S.O.569(E) dated 25thJuly, 1989)

ANNEXURE IV

NAMES OF THE PESTICIDES IN THE NOTIFICATION S.O.4212 (E)

S.No.	Name
1.	Benomyl
2.	Carbaryl
3.	Diazinon
4.	Fenarimol
5.	Fenthion
6.	Linuron
7.	MEMC
8.	Methyl Parathion
9.	Sodium Cyanide
10.	Thiometon
11.	Tridemorph
12.	Trifluralin
13.	Alachlor
14.	Dichlorvos
15.	Phorate,
16.	Phosphamidon
17.	Triazophos
18.	Trichlorfon
