

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3561
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH MARCH, 2018**

HEALTH HAZARDS OF PESTICIDES

**3561. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI SUNIL JAKHAR:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether occupational exposure to pesticides has led to deaths in various States of the country including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Maharashtra in 2017-18;
- (b) if so, details thereof including the number of deaths and hospitalization reported during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has given any assistance to the people who are suffering due to pesticides like Endosulfan and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; And
- (d) the other corrective measures taken in this regard including detection of such pesticides by the Government?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): The details of deaths reported by respective States/ UTs caused by the inhalation of Pesticides for the year 2015-16 to 2017-18 as per Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare are at Annexure. The details of hospitalisation are not available.

(c): Under the National Health Mission, approval of Rs. 22.19 crore has been provided for relief and rehabilitation of patients affected by endosulfan as per proposal of State of Kerala during 2012-13 to 2017-18.

(d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed that the following measures are being taken:

- I. The “Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India” (SMPMA) Scheme is being implemented through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) established across the country to keep pest population below economic thresholds level by employing available alternate pest control strategies and techniques viz. preventive measures, cultural, mechanical and biological control with greater emphasis on usage of bio-pesticides and pesticides of plant-origin like Neem formulation etc.

- II. IPMCs inter alia, produce biological agents for release in the fields, conserve natural bio-control agents, promote bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides and advocate judicious and safe use of chemical pesticides as a last resort.
- III. The CIPMCs are also organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.
- IV. The package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.
- V. Timely advisories are being issued by the Ministry to the State Government disseminating, inter alia management strategies to prevent pests attack.
- VI. The State Governments through various forums such as Zonal Conferences and National Conference are requested to exhort their extension functionaries to educate and impart training to farmers on efficacious and sustainable pest management strategies /approaches and to maintain constant surveillance.
- VII. A “Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level” (MPRNL) scheme is also being implemented , under which food commodities and environmental samples are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues The annual reports of MPRNL are shared with the States for taking corrective measures.

Details of deaths reported by respective States/ UTs caused by the inhalation of Pesticides

S.No.	State/UT	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Remarks
1	Andhra Pradesh	Such cases are not reported in Andhra Pradesh			
2	Bihar	Not reported			
3	Goa	Nil			
4	Gujarat	Nil			
5	Maharashtra	47	73	63	Causalities reported due to handling of Pesticides
6	Uttarakhand	Nil			
7	Daman and Diu	Nil			
8	Lakshadweep	Nil			
9	Assam	No such cases have been reported from any district of the State till date.			
10	Karnataka	2	1	Not Available	Causalities reported due to pesticide poisoning
11	Jharkhand	No report of such deaths			
12	Odisha	Not Available with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare		No deaths have been reported	
13	Telangana	Not Available with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare		No deaths have been reported	
14.	Tamil Nadu	Not Available with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare		3	Causalities due to excessive usage of pesticides and lack of safety measures while spraying.
15.	Punjab	112	57	64	
16.	Rajasthan	12	3	5	Causalities reported due to pesticide poisoning (including Suicidal, Homicidal, Accidental and Occupational)