

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.653
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY, 2018

USE OF BANNED WEED KILLER

653. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

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 cases of new insecticide/pesticide resistant pests have gone up in various States of the country including Punjab, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether incidence of sale of pesticides with banned chemicals and herbicide-tolerant cotton seeds have been reported from different parts of the country, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) the likely impact of such pesticides and seeds on crops and health of farmers;
- (d) whether World Health Organisation has revealed in their studies that use of weed killer glyphosate threat to cancer among human beings, if so, whether the Government is considering to phase out the stocking of market shelves of the weed killer, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers about judicious use of pesticides and insecticides in cultivation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

†ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâ¨ããÈã¼ã ½ãñâ Äã•¼ã ½ãâ¨ããè (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a): As an epidemic of whitefly was observed in north zone during 2015-16 season, the most commonly used and label claimed insecticides for whitefly were studied for their resistance status in whitefly adult's population during 2015-16 and 2016-17 from four different locations of North cotton growing zone of India. Out of the four locations studied in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the maximum resistance ratio was observed with the application of Thiamethoxam (58.96 folds) and comparatively less with Imidacloprid, Acetamiprid and Dinotefuran. Among organophosphate, Triazophos (23.42-43.15 folds) was recorded with maximum resistance ratio at all the studied

locations. Based on these studies the whitefly management strategies were revised and upgraded for the North cotton growing zone of India.

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(b) & (c): No specific information with respect to sale of pesticides with banned chemicals is available with Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). None of the State Government has reported about the sale of banned Herbicide Tolerant Cotton Seeds, since 2008. Only States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra have reported traces of unapproved Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton in some of the farmers field during 2017-18.

(d): Glyphosate is widely used herbicide in agriculture. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in March, 2015 after review, classified it 'probably carcinogenic' (group 2A, i.e. the evidence in experimental animals was sufficient and the evidence in humans was limited). Following the IARC report, the World Health Organization (WHO) formed an expert taskforce of Joint Meeting on Pesticides Residues (JMPR) to examine the reasons for divergence of opinions of its different groups on the carcinogenicity of glyphosate and some other active ingredients. The meeting concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to be genotoxic at anticipated dietary exposures. The meeting also concluded that glyphosate is not carcinogenic in rats but could not exclude the possibility that it is carcinogenic in mice at very high doses. In view of the absence of carcinogenic potential in rodents at human relevant doses and the absence of Geno-toxicity by the oral route in mammals and considering the epidemiological evidence from occupational exposures, the meeting concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans from exposures through the diet.

(e) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, inter alia, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets. In addition, States have been requested in the Zonal Conferences to exhort their extension functionaries to sensitize farmers on application of pesticides as per approved labels and leaflets.
