

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 983
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2018

USE OF SPURIOUS/ADULTERATED PESTICIDES

983. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that spurious and adulterated pesticides and fertilizers are in circulation and fobbed off on unsuspecting farmers for use in the farming, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received reports of several deaths and serious illnesses sustained by the farming community due to use of certain pesticides, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the proactive steps undertaken by the Government to check that spurious and adulterated pesticides and fertilizers are eliminated from being sold to the unwary farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): As per the information provided from the States, a total of 47978 samples of pesticides were analyzed in 2017-18, out of which 2.68 % (1290) were found to be misbranded, whereas, during the same period a total of 70462 samples of fertilizers were analyzed out of which 4.8% (3386) were declared nonstandard.

(b): As per the information received from the Maharashtra Government, during 2017-18, 63 casualties have been reported due to handling of pesticides.

(c): Under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central and State Government have notified 182 and 10492 number of Insecticides Inspectors respectively, to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and have them analyzed with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent courts of law in cases of violation of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. This Act has also vested State Governments with legal authority to investigate complaints and take legal action against offenders.

The Fertilizers (Control) Order, 1985 regulate the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers. State governments are adequately empowered under this Act to take appropriate administrative and legal actions against those dealers/manufacturers/importers who do not comply with the provisions. Further, samples of Fertilizer are drawn periodically by the Fertilizer Inspectors of the State Governments from retailers/wholesalers and manufacturing units etc. for testing in the notified laboratories to check their quality.
