

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 154
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH DECEMBER, 2018

DANGERS OF IMPROPER USE OF PESTICIDES BY FARMERS

154. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that several farmers' especially in Maharashtra have died due to the use of pesticides in their farms;
- (b) if so, the specific steps being taken by the Government to educate farmers about the manner in using pesticides, adopting protective gear and other safety measures;
- (c) the total number of Farmers Field Schools that have been organized by the Government for farmers across the country in the last year, the number of farmers have benefited from these schools, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is willing to revise existing schemes on imparting information to farmers on use of pesticides, in light of the dangers being posed to farmers by their lack of knowledge in using pesticides, and to restructure them to make them more effective;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 reported by the Maharashtra Government during 2017-18, death of 63 farm labours/farmers have been reported due to mishandling of pesticides.

(b) & (c): 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. The details of the FFSs organized under SMPMA Scheme in the last year is at Annexure I.

(d) & (e): The existing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) scheme is propagating and popularising Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an alternative strategy of pest management. The scheme is being bolstered and used rigorously in those regions and crops which are highly susceptible to pests.

(f): Does not arise.

Annexure-I

Details of Farmers Field Schools during the year 2017-18 under SMPMA Scheme

S.No.	State/ UT	No. of FFSs
1	Telangana	22
2	Andhra Pradesh	8
3	Assam	42
4	A & N Islands *	12
5	Arunachal Pradesh	8
6	Bihar	28
7	Chhattisgarh	18
8	Goa	10
9	Gujarat	16
10	Haryana	34
11	Himachal Pradesh	18
12	Jammu & Srinagar	22
13	Jharkhand	16
14	Karnataka	44
15	Kerala	44
16	Madhya Pradesh	14
17	Meghalaya	12
18	Maharashtra	46
19	Manipur	12
20	Mizoram	12
21	Nagaland	8
22	Odisha	20
23	Punjab	20
24	Rajasthan	46
25	Sikkim	12
26	Tamil Nadu	18
27	Tripura	6
28	Uttarakhand	26
29	Uttar Pradesh	92
30	West Bengal	28
Total		714

* UT included
