

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3745
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH JULY, 2019

SUPPLY OF SPURIOUS PESTICIDES/ WEEDICIDES/FERTILIZERS

3745. SHRI UNMESH BHAYYASAHEB PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of complaints received from various States alleging supply of spurious pesticides/ weedicides/fertilizers by some companies adversely affecting the agricultural production and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of samples of various pesticides, weedicides and fertilizers tested and found to be sub-standard during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against such companies;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism with the Government to monitor the sale of sub-standard/ spurious pesticides/ weedicides/fertilizers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide quality fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides to the farmers at reasonable prices?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S) receives complaints regarding manufacturing and selling of spurious pesticides (including weedicides) from the farmers/consumers and other stakeholders of various States. The details of such complaints received during the last three years is at Annexure-I.

No complaints of supply of spurious fertilizers have been received by the Government.

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(b) & (c): The number of samples of various pesticides (including weedicides) tested and found to be misbranded by the Central Insecticide and State Insecticide Inspectors during the last three years and the current year along with the action taken is at Annexure II. The year wise details of number of samples of fertilizers analysed and declared non-standard during the last three years and the current year along with the action taken is at Annexure III.

(d) & (e): To check the sale of misbranded pesticides and to monitor the quality of pesticides, the Central Government has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968. As per the Insecticides Act, 1968, the monitoring of quality of pesticides is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments. Central Government and State Governments have notified 138 and 10905 Insecticides Inspectors respectively to check sale of misbranded pesticides. Insecticide samples are drawn on regular basis and analyzed in 69 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur. Action is initiated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against those samples which are found misbranded. The Insecticides Act 1968 does not have provision for determination of pesticides prices.

The Government of India has declared the fertilizer as essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and has promulgated the Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985, to regulate the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers. Under Clause 19 of FCO, no person shall sale, offer for sale, manufacture, import or distribute any fertilizers which are not of prescribed standard. Any violation of the provision of Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985, invokes both administrative and penal action under the Essential Commodities Act. Further, there are 86 fertilizer testing laboratories in the country. Samples of fertilizers are periodically drawn and tested in these laboratories to check their quality. The Government of India has fixed the MRP of Urea under FCO and it is not permissible to sell the same beyond the statutory price. The Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) fertilizers are not under statutory price, but the Government of India is granting subsidy and ensure the reasonability of the prices.

Annexure-1

Details of complaints related to supply of spurious pesticides received from various States during the last 03 years are as under: -

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of complaint received	Subject matter	Action taken by Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage (DPPQ&S)
2018-19				
1.	Maharashtra	02	1. Selling of sub-standard and spurious pesticides by the dealer in Akola	Central Insecticide Inspector drew 04 samples from the premises. 03 samples have been found to be satisfactory and 01 found misbranded. Show-Cause notice has been issued to the dealer and manufacturer.
			2. Selling of sub-standard Bio-pesticides without registration by a firm	Team of Central Insecticide inspectors inspected the firm, samples were drawn by the team, 01 sample found satisfactory and report of the another sample is awaited. Stop sale order were issued to the firm for selling unregistered pesticides. The report of the team was also forwarded to the State Department for taking further necessary action as per the Insecticides Act., 1968 and Rules framed thereunder
2.	Gujarat	01	Selling of sub-standard pesticides by a firm	Direction was given to state Govt. to check the veracity of the complaint. Samples drawn by Insecticide Inspectors of the State have been found to be satisfactory.
3.	U.P.	01	Selling of spurious weedicides in the state	State Govt. was directed to give report on the same and it was found in the investigation that the claim of the complainant was not appropriate.
4.	Haryana	01	Selling of fake pesticides by a dealer in Palwal	Team of Central Insecticide Inspectors drew few samples of pesticides, which were found to be satisfactory after testing in the laboratory.

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2017-18				
1.	Himachal Pradesh	01	Selling of spurious pesticide by state Govt Outlet	The reports of the samples drawn from the stock, from which the pesticide was sold to the complainant was provided by the State Govt. and the testing report of the pesticide were found to be satisfactory.
2.	Maharashtra	01	Selling and manufacturing of sub-standard Bio-pesticides by a firm in Yavatmal	Samples of Bio-pesticides were drawn by the team of Insecticide Inspectors of the Central Govt. 02 samples of Bio-pesticides were found to be misbranded and accordingly prosecution initiated against the manufacturer.
2016-17				
1	Maharashtra	01	Selling and manufacturing of Bio-pesticides without registration	Prosecution is being launched.
2.	Gujarat	01	Selling and manufacturing of sub-standard weedicide by a firm	Complaint was found to be incorrect, as the complainant himself used the pesticides without going through label and leaflet and used the weedicide on non-recommended crop.

Annexure-II

Details of the samples analyzed by the State and Central Insecticide Inspectors in the last three years and current year

Year	Number of Samples analysed	Number of Samples found Misbranded	Prosecution Launched
2016-17	64101	1476	589
2017-18	65541	1594	876
2018-19	67251	1642	569
2019-20 (till July 2019)	6970	135	1

Annexure-III

Details of year wise number of samples of fertilizers analysed and declared non-standard during the last three years and the current year

Year	Number of Samples analysed	% of samples declared non-standard	Administrative Action	Prosecution launched
2016-17	137080	5.3	2452	52
2017-18	138602	5.1	2212	839
2018-19	107624 *	5.1	3453	521
2019-20 (till June 2019)	15145	1.7	146	43

* The information received from the States of Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, UP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh & Pondicherry including the sample analysed by the GOI laboratories.
