

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3399
 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21TH MARCH, 2023

BAN ON SULFAS DRUG

3399. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps or proposed to ban "Sulfas" drug, which is being used in grain protection/agriculture activities in the country and to curb its misuse mostly leading to loss of life and property and in suicides cases and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in the number of people committing suicide by consuming sulfas;
- (c) if so, the details of the said deaths during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether sulfas is being sold online without any prescription;
- (e) if so, whether the Government is going to lay down any strict rule/impose complete ban/take any concrete steps in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) : Government has not proposed to ban "Sulfas" drug, which is being used in grain protection/agriculture activities in the country. However to curb its misuse, Aluminium Phosphide (Sulfas) is restricted for use in the country. Aluminium Phosphide 56% (3g Tablet, 10g Pouch) is used for stored grain fumigation by Pest Control Operators (PCOs) under the strict supervision of Government experts or experts approved by the Plant Protection Adviser. Further, based on the recommendation of the Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, Government has banned the production, marketing and use of Aluminium Phosphide tube packs with a capacity of 10 and 20 tablets of 3 grams each of Aluminium Phosphide, vide Gazette Notification No. S.O.677 (E) dated 17th July, 2001.

(b) & (c): Specific information is not available on the cases of increase in number of people committing suicide by consuming Sulfas.

(d) to (f): Pesticides are sold to farmers by the licensed dealers of pesticides. To protect the farmers from improper advice regarding pesticides, the frequency, methodology and timing of application etc. a new sub-rule 1A of Rule 10 (1) was inserted in the Insecticides Rule, 1971 and a requirement of educational qualification was introduced for a person who applies for license to sell, stock or exhibit for sale or distribute insecticides.