

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 696
ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2023

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES

696. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) Whether the Government is cognisant of the harmful effects of chemical pesticides *vis-a-vis* bio-pesticides;
- (b) If so, whether the Government is making efforts to promote and deploy bio-pesticides on large scale like one developed by “Institute of pesticides formulation technology” based on entomo-pathogenic fungus *verticillium lecanii*;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) If not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under section (5) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers the pesticides including biopesticides, for use in the country after evaluation of their safety and efficacy. RC while registering the pesticides provides the details of doses, crops, precautionary measures, antidotes etc on Label and Leaflets. The registered pesticides if used as per Label and Leaflets do not pose any harm to human beings, animals, living organisms, other than pests.

The Government of India has taken various steps to promote the use of bio pesticides. Simplified guidelines have been formulated by RC for the registration of bio pesticides. For bio-pesticides provisional registration is being granted under Section 9(3B) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 alongwith the permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years. Thereafter, extension is also granted thrice

on yearly basis, to generate requisite data to be submitted for permanent registration under section 9(3). Besides this, if the strain of a bio-pesticide is already registered for use in the country, no data generation is required by the subsequent registrants, except for confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM), Maunath Bhanjan (UP) and quality verification of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL).

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) division of Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, through its 36 Central IPM Centers (CIPMCs) across 28 states and 2 UTs conduct various training programmes such as Farmers Field Schools, two/five days HRD programmes, Kisan Goshthis, IPM Exhibitions and Seed Treatment Campaigns where awareness is created amongst farmers, NGOs/Pesticide dealers/State agriculture functionaries on use of bio pesticides, bio control agents and botanical formulations as an alternative to chemical pesticides for pest management, safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides, usage, dose and label claim instructions as approved by RC.

Registration Committee has registered Entomo-pathogenic fungus *Verticillium lecanii* which is approved for the management of insect pest on various crops. Presently, CIPMC's are successfully producing many biopesticides such as *Metarhizium*, *Beauveria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Trichoderma* spp., *Isaria fumosorosea*; biocontrol agents such as *Trichogramma* spp., *Chilonus blackburni*, Reduviid bug, *Rhynocoris marginatus*, *Chrysoperla zastrowi sillemi*, *Cryptolaemus montrouzeri*, *Goniozus nephantidis*, *Sycanus collaris*, *Psuedomallada astur* and releasing the same in fields for management of various pests and pathogens.
