

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 326**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

**USE OF ANTIBIOTICS ON FOOD CROPS**

326. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

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

- (a): whether it is a fact that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics on food crops in several parts of the country is leading to the development and spread of Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) among the crops;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): whether the Government is taking any steps to check the rampant use of antibiotics on food crops and promote alternative healthy practices by the farmers; and
- (d): if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is not in receipt of any report related to indiscriminate use of antibiotics on food crops and development and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among the crops. Indian Council of Medical Research has reported that such information is not available with them. State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telengana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh also reported that no such cases/reports have been noticed in the States.

Pesticides (including antibiotics) are toxic substances but they do not pose any adverse effect on human beings, animals and the environment if they are used as per the label and leaflet approved by the Registration Committee. Pesticides are registered for use in the country by the Registration Committee only after satisfying about their efficacy and safety to human health, animal and environment.

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(c) & (d): Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine' Scheme, under which Integrated Pest Management approach is being promoted to educate the farmers about judicious use of registered chemical pesticides & antibiotics and to recommend their use as per the directions prescribed on the label and leaflets. Integrated Pest Management seeks to promote cultural, mechanical, biological methods of pest control and orients the farmers about proper use of pesticides. During the last 6 years (2014-15 to 2019-20), 4091 Nos. of Farmers Field Schools and 799 HRD programs have been organized wherein 1,74,690 farmers, pesticide dealers and State Officials have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops.

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