

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th MARCH, 2021

USE OF ANTIBIOTICS ON FOOD CROPS

3386. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the facts that 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 has received complaints from various States in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) 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
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): State Government of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Goa and Nagaland have reported that no cases related to indiscriminate use of antibiotics on food crops leading to development, spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) among the crops have been noticed/reported in their States.

However, the Central Government had received a correspondence from the Government of Chhattisgarh, regarding clarification on the strength at which the combination product of antibiotic Streptomycin Sulphate + Tetracycline Hydrochloride (antibiotic) is registered. The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticide Act, 1968 had provided the clarification to the State Government of Chhattisgarh that the formulation product is registered as Streptomycin sulphate 90% + Tetracycline Hydrochloride 10%. Further, Registration Committee suo-moto constituted a sub-committee to examine if the use of antibiotics in agriculture pose risk of development of resistance in human beings. The sub-committee has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Registration committee.

(d) & (e): 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/orient farmers, pesticide dealers and extension officials about judicious use of chemical pesticides & antibiotics and to recommend their use as per the directions prescribed on label and leaflets. Integrated Pest Management seeks to promote cultural, mechanical, biological methods of pest control and conservation of natural enemies, augmentation/release of bio-control agents in farmer fields for holistic management of pest & diseases. During last 3 years, 2018-19 to 2020-21 (upto December 2020), 1526 farmers field school and 241 HRD programs have been organized in the different states of India; wherein 62630 farmers, pesticides dealers and state officials have been trained on latest IPM technologies.
