

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3641
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024

EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO PESTICIDES DURING AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

3641. SMT. DHANORKAR PRATIBHA SURESH :

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

- (a) whether there have been children's deaths and injuries due to occupational exposure to pesticide sprays during agricultural activities in the country;
- (b) whether the hospitals are instructed to maintain details of children and others exposed to pesticide sprays and poisoning; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to protect children from such pesticide exposures, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): Information on injuries or data on children's death due to exposure to pesticide sprays is not available at the Central level. The Government of India regulates the manufacture and the use of Pesticides through legislation (Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971). Pesticides are allowed for use in the country only after ensuring the efficacy and safety of the pesticides, to prevent risk to human beings or animals. The details of doses, crops, precautionary measures, antidotes etc are prescribed on label and leaflets of pesticides for information of farmers for safe and judicious use. Also, the labels of the pesticides contain colored toxicity triangle based on the level of toxicity. Category-I is extremely toxic, category-II is highly toxic, category-III is moderately toxic and category-IV is slightly toxic. Warning statements such as "KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN", "POISON", "DANGER", and "CAUTION," for taking necessary precautions are mandated on the labels.

Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State Agriculture Departments conducts various programs such as Farmers Field Schools, HRD programs and Kisan Goshtis to create awareness among farmers and pesticide dealers on proper use & handling of pesticides, and necessary precautions to be taken while spraying it during agricultural activities.
