

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

SUPPLY OF SPURIOUS CHEMICALS

842 SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding supply of spurious chemicals that are either locally manufactured or imported in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action against any individual or company involved in supply of spurious chemicals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any standards for maintaining quality of chemicals, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c) Chemical Sector is broadly de-licensed and de-regulated except for few hazardous chemicals. Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) implements various provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to ensure supply of quality pesticides to farmers in the country. Rule 9 of the Insecticides Rules, 1971 provides that no insecticide can be manufactured, stocked, sold or exhibited for sale without a license granted by the licensing officer appointed by the State Governments, who grants the license after satisfying the availability of necessary plant and machinery, safety devices, first aid-facility, in the premises where the insecticide is proposed to be manufactured or sold or distributed.

Further, to ensure that quality insecticides are available in the market, under section 20 of the Insecticide Act, 1968, 12316 officers of various State Governments and 207 Officers of Central Government are notified as Insecticide Inspectors and they have been vested with powers to search premises, seize documents, stop distribution or sale of insecticides. These inspectors regularly conduct inspections of the manufacturing firms and dealers/retailers in the area of their jurisdiction to check the sale of any low quality/misbranded/unregistered pesticides and take insecticide samples for their quality analysis. The analysis of these samples is carried out by Insecticide Analysts appointed by Central or State Governments. The standard procedures approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) or the Registered Product Specification (RPS) of the Central Insecticides Board & Registration

Committee (CIB&RC) are used for sample testing of insecticides.

If any sample fails the testing, action is taken as per the provisions of the Insecticide Act, 1968. A total of 80,789 pesticide samples were analysed during the year 2023-24, and out of which 2,222 pesticide samples were found to be substandard which is 2.7% of total samples and appropriate legal action has been initiated.

(d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) formulates standards for chemicals & petrochemicals and most of the standards are presently voluntary in nature. To ensure manufacture and import of quality chemicals & petrochemicals, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has initiated an exercise to make BIS standards as mandatory under Section 16 of BIS Act, 2016. Till date, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has notified 75 Quality Control Orders to make BIS standards as mandatory.
