

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/05/2016

NEEM BASED PESTICIDES

***227. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether the agricultural scientists have developed neem based pesticides which are more effective in controlling pests and are much safer than chemical pesticides, especially neem coated urea and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government aims to popularize the use of such pesticides in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to export such pesticides to other countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 227 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/05/2016 REGARDING
“NEEM BASED PESTICIDES”**

(a) Yes, Madam. Scientists in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have done significant work on characterization of properties and utilization of Neem for agricultural use.

ICAR has also developed the technologies of making technical azadirachtin concentrates, formulations based thereupon and based on neem oil for use as pesticides. These technologies have been licensed to Industries like Ozone Biotech, Faridabad and Jai Chemicals, Faridabad, who in turn have commercialized several azadirachtin based pesticide formulations such as, Ozo-Aza, Ozo-Rakshak, Jaineem, etc effective in management of pests. The neem technology is a success story of the ICAR-IARI and various other Institutes.

So far Govt of India has registered 9 neem based formulations as pesticides for management of diseases, insect pests and mosquitoes under Insecticide Act 1968.

However, the neem coated urea (NCU) as indicated is not used as pesticide. Neem coating in urea acts to regulate the release of the fertilizer, thereby preventing loss through volatilization/ leaching resulting into air/ ground-water pollution. Research in ICAR has shown that in NCU this loss is reduced by 10-15% and result in increase in rice grain yield from 6.3-11.9%.

(b) Yes, Madam. Neem based pesticides are a key component of all Integrated Pest Management (IPM) protocols developed by the ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities, which in turn are included in the National IPM packages.

Besides, commercial formulations farmers are also trained and encouraged by ICAR Institutes and other organizations for use of crude extracts of neem for pest management.

Government is implementing the eco-friendly IPM through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs), Department of Plant Quarantine and Storage and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), across the country.

The activities are implemented through Farmer Field Schools (FFSs), Kisan Melas, 2-5 days training programmes and season long training programmes for the State Agriculture Extension Officers and NGOs/private bodies.

During 2015-16, a total of 641 FFSs were organized wherein, 19,230 farmers were trained.

Through its order dated 25th May 2015, Govt. of India has made it mandatory for all the indigenous manufacturers of urea to produce 100% of their total production of subsidized urea as NCU.

Accordingly, ICAR has directed all its crop production research to be conducted using NCU.

(c) Government of India has been exporting significant amount of its neem seed oil, technical azadirachtin concentrates, and formulations for years to several countries around the world for use as pesticides.

The following steps have been undertaken to boost export of neem oil and neem based bio-pesticides:-

1. Simplified the registration of neem based formulations.
2. Neem formulation industries experiencing modernization.
3. Motivating Neem plantations and enhancing the efficiency of oil extraction.
