

technical reviews in 1993, 1995 and 2005. None of the Expert reviews have recommended imposition of complete ban on sale and use of this chemical in agriculture. A fresh review by an expert committee is under way for several pesticides including Monocrotophos. The Report of the Expert Committee is expected to be presented to Central Government shortly. The Registration Committee registers pesticides including alternatives to existing products, under provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 after technical examination of efficacy and safety.

As per provisions of Insecticides Act 1968 and Rules framed there under, manufacturers of pesticides are required to provide a label leaflet with each pack having details of directions for use, dose, dilution, waiting period, safety, etc. In addition to that distributors, sellers and farmers are also being trained to comply with safety in dealing with pesticides.

#### **National knowledge network**

2238. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has established National Knowledge Network (NKN);

(b) if so, the objectives of the NKN; and

(c) the number of institutions interconnected in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has established the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The establishment of NKN was approved in March, 2010.

(b) The objective of the NKN is to inter-connect all knowledge institutions across the country through high speed data communication network to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research. These include over 1500 Institutes comprising of Universities, Research Institutions, and Institutions of Higher Learning.

(c) As on 30th November, 2014 a total of 1354 links to Institutions have been commissioned and made operational. This includes 358 links to institutions under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), which have been migrated to NKN.