

Death of farmers due to poisonous pesticides

2110. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have died due to fertilizer use in the last three years, State-wise, including the current year, especially in the months of September-October in 2017 in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to educate and train farmers to use pesticides safely; and

(c) whether Government is aware that the Vasantao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) has publicly demanded the Centre's intervention in this matter so as to identify and take action against the officers whose negligence contributed to these deaths, if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) There are no casualties reported due to use of fertilizer from any parts of the country including Maharashtra.

(b) Under 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) scheme, Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) are organized to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach and to use chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels claims.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe pesticides poisoning cases and to propose proactive policies and strategies to prevent incidences in future. SIT has submitted its report to Government of Maharashtra.

Damage to crops due to drought

†2111. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crops damaged due to drought in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh in last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any assessment has been carried out this year regarding losses accrued to paddy crops due to drought in various districts of Chhattisgarh;

(c) the States in which paddy crops have been damaged due to scanty rain causing drought and steps taken to compensate it;

(d) whether Government is considering to declare such areas as draught hit where there was scanty rain, so that farmers could get immediate relief; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) Details of damage to crops, in the wake of drought during 2014-15 and 2015-16, in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, as reported by the State Government, are indicated below:

in lakh hectares (ha.)	
Year	Damage to crops in the wake of drought
2014-15	10.05
2015-16	8.04

No report on damage to crops in the wake of drought during 2016-17 and 2017-18 (so far) in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has been received from the State Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. In response to the Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought of Kharif 2017 submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State from 21st to 23rd November, 2017 for assessment of the drought situation, including damage to paddy crops also.

(c) During Kharif 2017, the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also submitted Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought. In the Memorandum, while the Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that bulk of Kharif crop comprises pulses, no damage to paddy crop in the wake of drought has been reported. The IMCT to Madhya Pradesh submitted its final report on 13.12.2017. The report of the IMCT was considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) in the meeting held on 27.12.2017. The recommendation of the SC-NEC has been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for placing it before the High Level Committee for approval. In the Memorandum, the Government of Rajasthan has reported

damage to paddy in 1450 hectares area due to drought. The Memorandum submitted by the Government of Rajasthan is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Declaration of drought is made by the respective State Governments taking into account various factors.

Use of toxic pesticides in the country

2112. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven deadly pesticides, banned or restricted elsewhere in the world due to their high toxicity, are used in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre for Science and Environment has released a list of seven extremely hazardous pesticides which continue to be used in India despite being banned in many countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There are 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee in July 2013, to review them. The Expert Committee, *inter alia*, recommended 13 pesticides to be completely banned, 27 pesticides to be reviewed in 2018 after completion of certain technical studies and 6 pesticides to be phased out by 2020. The Complete list is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, *vide* its Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, had invited objections and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). In response to the Notification S.O. 4212(E) dated 15th December, 2016, the Ministry has received various objections and suggestions. Keeping in view of which, a committee has been constituted to review the received objections and suggestions.

(c) and (d) There is no such report available with the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.