

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) As per the information received from the Maharashtra Government, death of 63 farm labours/farmers have been reported due to poisoning while spraying pesticide on the crops.

(b) and (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.

The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken adequate awareness extension activities for safe handling of pesticides and spraying activities. Further, action under Insecticide Act, 1968 are being taken by the Government of Maharashtra against the violation of the Act and Rules.

To provide the subsidy to the sprayers under the various assistance programmes of Government, it is mandatory to test these sprayers as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from the authorized testing centres of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

#### **Use of hazardous pesticides**

2116. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of hazardous pesticides, which are banned worldwide, are still in use in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to have an exclusive legislation on pesticides management to address the issues related to unsafe use of pesticides?

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AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) There are 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries, but continued to be registered in India.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 in the Statement-I. [Refer to

the Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 2112 (Part (a) and (b))] 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. [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 2112 (Part (a) and (b))] 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) The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers insecticides after considering its efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. Furthermore, the Registration Committee while granting Certificate of Registration to the applicant also approves labels and leaflets. These labels and leaflets, *inter alia*, provides information on safe usage of the insecticide. It is mandatory for every manufacturer to place these labels and leaflets in the packages of insecticide for sell. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is implementing 'Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach' (SMPMA) Scheme, wherein, *inter alia*, 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 and leaflets. In addition, Package of practices for control of pests and diseases in 87 crops have been revised to include techniques to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and encourage use of bio-pesticides and other alternative plant protection measures.

#### **Assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country**

2117. SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been assessment of crop loss in different parts of the country, particularly in Odisha, due to shortfall of rain/untimely rain/drought/pest attack, etc., if so, the details thereof;

(b) the financial assistance sought by the concerned State Governments to cope up with the situations like above during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the crop losses; and