

They are allowed to be used only as per the approved label/leaflet claims. In additions, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use.

- (ii) Promoting use of bio-pesticides which are safer alternatives to the chemical pesticides.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residue. The annual reports of MPRNL are shared with the States for taking corrective measures.

(c) and (d) The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has constituted an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Anupam Verma in July 2013, to review 66 pesticides that are banned, restricted, withdrawn in one or more countries but continued to be registered in India. 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 Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)]. Considering the recommendation of Expert Committee as accorded by the Registration Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had invited objection and suggestions from the public/stakeholders on banning/phasing out of certain pesticides. The details are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement-II appended to answer to USQ No. 342 Part (a) and (b)]. In response to which, 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.

Allocation of additional funds to ICAR

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

- (a) whether ICAR has started any major projects to develop improved variety of pulses to increase production in the country;

(b) whether ICAR has failed to develop improved variety of oilseeds and whether any special research project has been started and other steps have been taken to reduce imports; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to allocate additional funds to ICAR for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) ICAR has been implementing All India Coordinated Pulses Improvement Project in association with State Agricultural Universities for development of location specific improved varieties of pulses since 1966. Besides, the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora are also implementing programmes for development of improved varieties of pulses. As a result, total 868 improved varieties of pulses have been notified for commercial cultivation in India till 2017.

ICAR has started two major projects for promotion of location specific improved varieties of pulses of less than 10 years of age, namely "Additional Breeder Seed Production" and "Seed Hubs on Pulses" since kharif 2016 and made available 10870 q additional breeder seed and 164223 q quality certified seed of improved varieties of pulses in the country during the last two years, so as to enhance their domestic production.

(b) No, Sir. The ICAR is implementing All India Coordinated Research Project on Oilseeds, in association with the State Agricultural Universities, to develop location specific improved varieties of oilseeds since 1967. As a result, total 778 improved varieties of nine annual oilseeds (groundnut, soybean, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger, castor and linseed) have been notified for commercial cultivation till 2017.

ICAR has renewed its focus on the oilseeds' research projects for development of climate resilient short duration high yielding varieties and hybrids with better quality and value addition; development of transgenics resistant to biotic (insect-pests and diseases) and abiotic (moisture, heat and photoperiod) stresses; integrated crop management practices for enhancing yield and reducing cost of cultivation, etc.

In order to reduce the import of vegetable oil and enhance their domestic production, ICAR has also launched a project namely "Seed-Hub on Oilseeds" from the

ongoing kharif season (2018-19) with a budget outlay of ₹ 50.91 crore to augment the timely availability of certified quality seeds of recently released improved varieties/hybrids of less than 10 years of age and has targeted to produce about 60825 q quality seeds of improved varieties of oilseeds till rabi 2019-20.

Lately, the Government of India has enhanced the import tariff substantially to discourage the import of vegetable oil in the country. Accordingly, from 1st March, 2018, the import duty on crude palm oil has been raised to 44% from 30% in November, 2017 and that of refined palm oil to 54% from 40% in November, 2017.

To encourage the domestic production of vegetable oils, the Government of India is vigorously implementing National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm % (NMOOP) with adequate emphasis on nine annual oilseeds, 11 tree borne oilseeds and oil palm. Besides, the Government has also enhanced the minimum support price (MSP) in the range of 3.8 to 10.8% in 2017-18 over 2016-17 and in the range of 9.9 to 45.1% for kharif oilseeds during 2018-19 over 2017-18 to encourage the farmers for enhanced cultivation of annual oilseeds.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has enhanced the allocation for oilseeds' research from ₹ 61.8 crore in 2016-17 to 131.6 crore in 2017-18 and that for pulses' research from ₹ 39.3 crore in 2016-17 to ₹65.6 crore in 2017-18. The allocation to ICAR has further been enhanced for this purpose during 2018-19, which is ₹160.6 crore and ₹85.2 crore for oilseeds and pulses, respectively.

Campaign against excessive use of pesticides

357. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers, due to ignorance, resort to excessive use of pesticides and insecticides which is harming the agricultural produces and the environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to address this issue and initiate widespread campaign against excessive use of pesticides; and

(c) whether Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Panchayats are involved, with special reference to Punjab, to propagate the use of modern technology and best farm practices and less use of pesticides amongst the farmers, if so, the details thereof?