

For example, MRL of Thiamethoxam for Brinjal is 0.3 mg/kg and for Okra is 0.5 mg/kg whereas MRL of Pyriproxyfen for Brinjal is 0.02 mg/kg and for Okra is 0.03 mg/kg.

(b) The Central Government has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after considering data on different parameters such as chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing to ensure efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and environment. In addition, technical reviews are carried out from time to time to assess the safety of pesticides for their continued use. Further the monitoring of quality of pesticides is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments. Central Government and State Governments have notified Insecticides Inspectors to check sale of misbranded pesticides. Insecticide samples are drawn on regular basis and analyzed in State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) and at the two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur. Action is initiated under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against those samples which are found misbranded.

(c) Corrective actions are being undertaken by this Department to sensitize farmers, *inter alia* on judicious use of chemical pesticides. This Department has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the country. These CIPMCs propagate the use of Integrated Pest Management and recommend judicious use of chemical pesticide. The CIPMCs, *inter alia*, releases bio-control agents in the fields, conducts Farmers Field Schools and organizes IPM orientation programs. In the last three years, 5957.25 million of bio-control agents have been released, 2142 nos. of Farmers Field Schools and 391 nos. of IPM orientation programs have been organized by the CIPMCs. Furthermore, the Annual reports of the ' MPRNL ' Scheme are also being shared with the State agriculture department to take corrective measures.

#### **Low growth rate in agriculture sector**

792. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country has been witnessing low growth rate in agriculture in last two consecutive years;
- (b) if so, the growth rate of agriculture in 2017-18 and 2018-19; and
- (c) the reasons for low growth rate in agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The overall economy has been growing at a faster rate than the agriculture sector resulting in a decline of the share of agriculture and allied sector in the economy. This is on account of structural changes due to a shift from a traditional agrarian economy to industry and services dominated one. This phenomenon is generally expected in the normal development process of developing economies including India.

As per the estimates of National Income released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the growth rate of Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors during 2017-18 and 2018-19 are 5.0% and 2.9% respectively. Average annual growth rate in the last decade ending 2016-17 has been 3.3% and the average growth rate in the last two years (2017-18 & 2018-19) is 3.9% which is broadly similar to the average annual growth of the last decade ending 2016-17.

(c) GVA in agriculture and allied sectors is largely determined by the level of production in agriculture crops, horticulture, fisheries, dairy etc. Although, the production of foodgrains and horticultural crops, which is a major component in the overall value of output/GVA in agriculture, has been showing an increasing trend as given below in the table, the growth rate of GVA of agriculture has been volatile due to cyclical fluctuations on account of the extent and spatial distribution of rainfall during monsoon season, unseasonal rains/hailstorms, adverse temperature conditions etc. The Production of Foodgrains, horticultural crops and growth rate of GVA of agriculture and allied sector from 2014-15 to 2018-19 are detailed below:

Year	Food Grains (million tonnes)	Horticulture Crops (million tonnes)	Growth rate of GVA of agriculture and allied sector
2014-15	252.02	280.99	-0.2
2015-16	251.54	286.19	0.6
2016-17	275.11	300.64	6.3
2017-18	285.01	311.70	5.0
2018-19	283.37*	314.87**	2.9@

\*As per the Third Advance estimates of production of Foodgrains.

\*\* As per Second Estimate.

@ As per the provisional estimates of national income released by CSO on 31st May, 2019.