

Management approach is being promoted to educate the farmers about judicious use of chemical pesticides and to recommend use as per the directions prescribed on the label and leaflets. Integrated Pest Management seeks to promote cultural, mechanical, biological methods of pest control and orients the farmers about proper use of pesticides. During the last 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20), 3472 Farmer Field Schools and 647 Human Resource Development programmes were conducted under Integrated Pest Management and 1,04,160 farmers and 25,880 pesticide dealers and State Extension officials have been trained.

Violation of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001

†2248. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that corporate companies like Pepsico are filing cases against farmers in the country including those of Gujarat and Rajasthan for cultivating several varieties of crops;

(b) if so, details of steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government is not protecting the interests of farmers on such issues and due to this the multinational companies are acting in such manner; and

(d) the measures to be adopted by Government to protect the interests of farmers if there is any violation of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights, Act, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) The said company had filed cases against the farmers in the State of Gujarat for cultivating the potato variety registered by it, however, the said cases were later withdrawn unconditionally.

(c) and (d) Farmers' interest is being safeguarded under Section 39(iv) of Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Right Act, 2001 which says that "a farmer shall be deemed to be entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under this Act in the same manner as he was entitled before the coming into force of this Act: Provided that the farmers shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this Act".

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.