

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1316
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Problems associated with the Pesticides Management Bill

1316. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government finds it reasonable to allow manufacture and export of domestically banned pesticides to other countries approving their use;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it recognize the adverse effects to the pesticides industry due to Pesticide Management Bill (PMB) mandate requiring re-registration by a manufacturer after every two years, and if it sees fit to relax these mandates;
- (d) if so, reasons therefor;
- (e) whether is a fact that the Bill vest unbridled power in the Registration Committee to review the registration of a pesticide and suspend, cancel or ban it without scientific basis; and
- (f) if so, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

- (a) & (b): Out of the 50 pesticides/formulations banned for use in India, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on the recommendation of Registration Committee has allowed the manufacture for export of 5 pesticides only viz. Nicotine Sulphate, Captafol 80% powder for dry seed treatment, Dichlorovos, Phorate and Triazophos to other countries which approve their use. This permission has been granted for three years, subject to certain conditions and on case to case basis on the application of the manufacturing companies/firms.
- (c) & (d): No Sir, Pesticide Management Bill (PMB) does not mandate re-registration by a manufacture after every two years. In fact, the PMB provides that insecticides registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968 shall be deemed to be registered under the provisions of PMB for a maximum

period of two years from the date of commencement of the Act and before the expiry of this period the holder of the certificate of registration of such insecticide shall make an application within six months from the date of commencement of the new Act for registration of the pesticide. This is only a one-time requirement in a facilitative manner so that all existing registrants under the Insecticides Act, 1968 are recorded and brought under the PMB. There is no provision of re-registration after every two years thereafter.

- (e) & (f): The thrust of PMB is “to ensure availability of safe and effective pesticides, and to strive to minimise risk to human beings, animals, living organisms other than pests, and the environment”. Therefore, keeping this thrust in perspective, the PMB confers on the Registration Committee the power to review, suspend and cancel registration or ban a Pesticide, on specific grounds of efficacy and safety, adverse impact of pesticide on health of human beings, other living organisms or the environment, the risk posed by pesticide outweighs its benefits and change in status of its registration, restriction or ban in other countries, following due procedure and giving an opportunity of being heard to the holder of the certificate of registration. Further, there is also a remedy of an appeal to the Central Government against the decision of the Registration Committee. Therefore, the powers vested on Registration Committee are not unbridled but qualified by provisions of the Bill.
