

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2723
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/03/2021

ADVERSE EFFECT OF GLYPHOSATE PESTICIDE

2723. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the pesticide named Glyphosate is having many adverse effect on flora and fauna in agricultural land;
- (b) if so, actions taken by Government on the request of State Government of Kerala to ban the use of this pesticide in the country;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of Glyphosate on flora and fauna, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to ban the usage of Glyphosate in the country, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Pesticides are toxic substances which are registered for use in the country by the Registration Committee only after satisfying itself about their efficacy and safety to human health, animal and environment. The Pesticide may not pose any adverse effect on human beings, animals and the environment if they are used as per the label and leaflet approved by the Registration Committee. At the time of registration of Glyphosate in the country, the Registration Committee as per provisions of the Insecticide Act 1968, did a complete evaluation of Glyphosate on parameters, data and studies with respect to chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, packaging and processing and only after satisfying itself with the safety and efficacy aspect, Glyphosate was registered for use in tea plantation and non-cropped area only.

(b) & (d): During February 2019, Government of Kerala prohibited the sale, distribution and use of Glyphosate and its derivatives for 60 days throughout the State of Kerala. Government of Kerala further requested to Central Government and recommended to prohibit the sale, distribution and use of Glyphosate and its derivatives throughout the State of Kerala. The matter was examined by the sub-committee constituted by Registration Committee and as per recommendation of the sub-committee and consultation with Registration Committee. A draft notification seeking objections and suggestions was published in July, 2020 for restriction on use of Glyphosate and to be allowed through Pest Control Operators (PCOs). Objections and suggestions have been received on Draft notification and the same are being examined by the Registration Committee.

(c): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has reported that few studies have been conducted in India under All India Coordinated Research Project - Weed Management at Kerala Agriculture University, Thrissur & Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur and ICAR- Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur. Studies reported effect on soil-dwelling earthworms and on some of the soil microflora, slight reduction in biomass of earth worm and glyphosate concentration on tea leaves were found below the maximum residue level.
