

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1942
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17/03/2023

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES

1942. SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human beings as well as on other living beings;
- (b) if so, whether Government is devising any concrete plan to promote chemical fertilizer and pesticide-free farming and organic farming in the entire country, including Uttar Pradesh in view of rising costs and diseases in farming; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c) : The manufacture, import, storage, sale, distribution, use, etc of pesticides are regulated by the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 made thereunder. The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under section (5) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers the pesticides for use in the country after evaluation of their safety and efficacy. Pesticides do not pose any adverse effect on the human beings, animals and environment if they are used as per the label and leaflet approved by the Registration Committee (RC). similarly in case of Fertilisers the Government of India is advocating the balanced and judicious use of fertilizer on soil test based recommendation.

However, Government of India is implementing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP), under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) since 2020-21 to promote chemical fertilizer free traditional indigenous practices including natural farming. The scheme mainly emphasizes on exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs and promotes on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of cow dung-urine formulations and other plant based preparations. Under BPKP, financial assistance of Rs 12200/ha for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building and continuous handholding by trained personnel, certification and residue analysis.

For promotion of organic farming, Government is implementing schemes of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. PKVY is being implemented in all the States including Uttar Pradesh across the country other-than North Eastern (NE) States. MOVCDNER scheme is being implemented exclusively in the NE States. Under these schemes, farmers are encouraged to adopt organic cultivation and are provided end to end support from production to marketing of organic produce.

Under PKVY, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50000/ha for 3 years out of which, Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years is provided as incentives directly to farmers through DBT for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs. Whereas, under MOVCDNER, an assistance of Rs. 46,575/ha for 3years is provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification, out of which Rs. 32,500/ ha for 3years is provided as incentives to farmers for off-farm and on-farm organic inputs.

Moreover, ICAR promotes integrated use of chemicals and fertilizers and create mass awareness on benefits of organic farming and natural farming including Uttar Pradesh. ICAR also developed several technologies for organic inputs and carry out network project on organic farming and natural farming at 20 centres in 16 states.

To promote the use of bio pesticides in agriculture, the Registration Committee (RC) has formulated simplified guidelines for grant of registration of bio-pesticides, based on the confirmation of molecular identity of the strain from ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (ICAR-NBAIM), MaunathBhanjan (UP) and test report of the product from Central Insecticide Laboratory (CIL), Faridabad.

Further, with the objective of educating, orienting and training of farming community, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare through its attached office Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) is propagating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach through its 36 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers(CIPMCs) across 28 States and 2 UTs. These IPM Centers across the country conducts various training programs such as Farmers Field Schools, two/five days HRD programmers, Kisan -Goshthis, IPM Exhibitions and Seed Treatment Campaigns where awareness is created among the farmers, NGOs/Pesticide dealers/State agriculture functionaries on (i) use of bio-pesticides, bio control agents and botanical formulations such as neem oil, Neem Seed Kernel Extract (NSKE) for pest management as an alternative to chemical pesticides. (ii) Safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides, (iii) to use pesticides as per approved Label claims with respect to doses, manner of application and crops etc.
