

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

USE OF TOXIC CHEMICAL PARAQUAT DICHLORIDE BY FARMERS

*118. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of current guidelines and restrictions in place for the safe use of paraquat dichloride considering its recognized toxicity and associated health risks to humans and animals;
- (b) the steps undertaken to educate farmers on safe handling practices for paraquat dichloride, particularly in rural areas where protective equipment and training are limited;
- (c) whether there is an ongoing review of paraquat dichloride's usage in light of its ban in various other countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of initiatives underway to identify and promote safe alternatives to paraquat dichloride and the support extended to farmers for transition to these alternatives?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

- (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2024
REGARDING USE OF TOXIC CHEMICAL PARAQUAT DICHLORIDE BY FARMERS.**

(a) & (c): The Government of India regulates the manufacture and the use of Pesticides in the country through comprehensive legislation known as Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971 and pesticides are allowed for use in the country only 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. The details of doses, crops, precautionary measures, antidotes etc are prescribed on Label and Leaflets of pesticides. The registered pesticides if used as per Label and Leaflets do not pose any harm to human beings, animals, environment and living organisms other than pests.

Further, Registration Committee (RC) constituted u/s 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, in its 361st RC meeting held on 22.12.2015, deliberated the recommendations of Dr. Anupam Verma Committee to review 66 pesticides including Paraquat Dichloride which are currently banned/restricted/ withdrawn in other countries, and accepted its continued use with caution, improved packaging to prevent misuse, and training for medical personnel to handle poisoning cases. Further, a sub-committee has been constituted on the directions of Government of India to review the toxicity and safety of Paraquat dichloride.

(b) & (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs), and State Agriculture Departments, undertakes various training programs, including Farmers Field Schools (FFS), two-day and five-day HRD programs, and 30-day Season-Long Training Programs (SLTP), to educate and train farmers, state agriculture extension functionaries, and pesticide dealers on the safe handling practices of pesticides, including Paraquat dichloride. The need-based, judicious use of pesticides, as per the label and leaflets, is advocated as a last resort. The promotion of bio-pesticides for managing crop pests is also emphasized. Further, simplified guidelines have been formulated by the RC for the registration of bio-pesticides, along with permission for commercialization during the provisional registration period of two years.
