

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:364
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
PRODUCTION OF BIO PESTICIDES
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy for increasing the production of `Bio-Pesticides` in the country in view of its growing demand in organic farming;
- (b) if so, whether the limited availability of quality bio-pesticides is discouraging farmers to undertake organic farming;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether less than 0.1 percentage of farmers use bio-pesticides due to lack of awareness; and
- (e) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to create awareness amongst farmers for use of bio-pesticides and augment its production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 364 DUE FOR REPLY ON 18TH AUGUST, 2003.

(a) to (c): The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968 registers bio-pesticides after satisfying itself about the effectiveness of the product against the target pests and safety to human beings, animals and environment. To facilitate early registration of Bio-pesticides, Registration Committee has simplified the data requirement and commercial production of Bio-pesticides is allowed even during the period of provisional registration.

The Directors of Agriculture of respective States issue licences for manufacturing of bio-pesticides in their States after registration is granted. The use of bio-pesticides is being actively promoted under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming by the Central and State Governments through the network of 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) located in 22 States/UT, State Department of Agriculture and Horticulture and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). Central Government is also giving grants-in-aid to State Government to establish Bio-control Laboratories to produce bio-control agents including bio-pesticides.

Sufficient quantity of quality bio-pesticides is being produced in the country for use at farmers` level in organic farming as well as under Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programmes on various crops.

(d)&(e): By and large, the pest control is achieved by the farmers by using chemical pesticides being more readily available. However, keeping in view the various side-effects of the chemical pesticides, the use of bio-pesticides under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming is picking up. In this respect, efforts are being made to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic farming by Central and State Governments. The use of bio-pesticides has been recommended as part of the package of practices for the control of various pests in different crops. IPM training is imparted to farmers by organizing farmers` Field Schools (FFSs) on various crops. As a result, the use of chemical pesticides is declining while the use of bio-pesticides is on the increase.

Under the new Scheme of National Project on Organic Farming, various training programmes, field demonstrations/farmers fairs and farmers training have been planned to create awareness amongst farmers to use various organic inputs including bio-pesticides.