

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:835  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003  
USE OF ENDOSULFAN  
K. MURALEEDHARAN

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether "Endosulfan and Roundup Pesticide" is being used for agriculture purpose despite being harmful to human population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any report in this regard from the Government of Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV )

(a)&(b): Endosulfan is being used for agricultural purposes whereas Roundup pesticide is mainly being used in tea plantations and non cropped areas for control of certain weeds. The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human beings, animals and the environment. The instructions regarding the doses, time intervals and the crops are printed on their labels and leaflets. If applied in the manner stipulated by the Registration Committee as per recommended dosage, they do not cause health hazards to human beings.

(c)&(d): The Government of Kerala constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A Achhuthan to enquire into the press reports regarding ill-effects in Padre village of Kasargod district in Kerala allegedly caused by aerial spraying of endosulfan. The Government of Kerala later provided a copy of the said report to the Government of India in April, 2002, based on which the Government of Kerala had, on 18.02.02 withdrawn the suspension earlier imposed by it on the use of endosulfan in the State. The Expert Committee, had in its report, suggested that aerial spraying of Endosulfan should be prohibited for all crops in Kerala and that Peria Division of Plantation Corporation of Kerala Limited (PCK) should observe a pesticide holiday for period of five years and should undertake only ground based spraying of endosulfan as per practices recommended by the Kerala Agricultural University. These recommendations were accepted by the Kerala Government.

The Government of India also constituted an Expert Committee and based on its recommendations decided that the use of endosulfan be continued as per provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 as there is no link established between the use of endosulfan in PCK Plantations and health problems reported in Padre village.