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Title:Need to take constructive steps to control and regulate the pesticide usage in India.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

India is one of the largest consumers of pesticides in the world. India does not have a system to manage pesticides in a sound manner. It also allows the sale and usage of highly toxic pesticides banned in several countries. There are three different Government agencies to control and regulate pesticide usage in India. The CIBRC under the Ministry of Agriculture approves introduction of new pesticides. The second FSSAI under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are responsible for checking the MRL of pesticides in food crops at the end level. The third APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce sets the guidelines and standards for certifying organic farms.

Sir, in recent days, the CIBRC gives approval to pesticides without hesitation and FSSAI's norms on permissible level of pesticides are not supported by any scientific base. DDT is known for the danger it poses but India still continues to produce it. Unregulated pesticides that are banned or partly restricted in most parts of the world are largely used in India. There is also no control over sale of pesticides at the retail level. Many scientists suggest banning is the best way forward to tackle the growing unregulated pesticide consumption in India.

So, Sir, I urge upon the Government to take constructive steps to control and regulate the pesticide usage in India.