

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to ban the pesticides classified as hazardous by the World Health Organisation.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): In October 2017, a matter of crucial importance came to the forefront when 21 farmers lost their lives due to pesticide poisoning in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra. According to government data, pesticide poisoning has claimed the lives of 272 farmers in the last 4 years in Maharashtra alone. The special investigation team discovered that the pesticides that caused these deaths are Monocrotophos and Oxydemetonmethyl, which are Class 1 hazardous pesticides under WHO. These pesticides which are being used by our farmers have been banned in 60 countries across the world. Punjab recently stopped the issue of fresh licences to 20 harmful pesticides. Since the power to completely ban the hazardous pesticides rests with the central government under the Insecticides Act, 1968, I urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take cognizance of this matter and ban the pesticides classified as hazardous under Class I by WHO at the earliest.