



Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

CHANDIGARH, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020
(SRAVANA 23, 1942 SAKA)

LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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| | Notification No. S.O. 26/C.A.46/1968/ S.27/2020, dated the 14.08.2020, prohibiting the sale, stock, distribution and use of all types of formulations of the insecticides indicated in the Table, in the State of Punjab for a period of sixty days. | .. 369-370 |
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PART III

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE
(AGRICULTURE-II BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 14th August, 2020

No. S.O. 26/C.A.46/1968/S.27/2020:- Whereas the State Government is of the opinion that the sale, stock, distribution and use of insecticides indicated in the Table given below, is not in the interest of rice growers in view of the reasons recorded below; namely:-

- (i) that there is a risk of higher pesticide residues than Maximum Residual Level (MRL) fixed by the competent authority in the rice grains on account of use of these agro-chemicals;
- (ii) that the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana has recommended alternative agrochemicals to control pests of rice in Punjab;
- (iii) that a concerted campaign was launched in the last two years under which farmers were made aware about the hazards of such chemicals to human beings. In addition, awareness was also created amongst the pesticide companies as well as dealers against the use of such chemicals on Basmati rice in Punjab;
- (iv) that in spite of all these efforts, these chemicals are still being used which is clear from the fact that Punjab Government Food Safety Laboratory, Kharar indicated that out of fifty one samples, nine samples of rice contained the residue of these chemicals above the MRL value. Similarly, Punjab Biotechnology Incubator Agri and Food Testing Laboratory, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab; NABL accredited laboratory of Government of Punjab, in its report submitted that seven number of samples were found to contain pesticide residue in rice above MRL value;
- (v) that the Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association has also reported that many samples got tested by them contain the residue value of these pesticides much above the MRL values in Basmati Rice. The Association requested for ban of these agrochemicals to save the heritage Basmati produce of Punjab, and to ensure hassle free export of rice to other countries; and

- (vi) the quality of Basmati rice is very crucial for its export to foreign countries and the price of Basmati rice in the market accruing to the farmers is also dependent on the quality of the grain. In addition, the safety of the grain to the human beings is of paramount importance in the agro eco-system;

Whereas in view of the above, it is imperative to prohibit the sale, stock, distribution and use of the insecticides indicated in the Table given below, on rice crop in the State, being potential constraint in export and consumption of rice, especially Basmati rice; and

Whereas the alternatives to the said insecticides, which are low in residue effect, are available in the market.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 27 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 (Central Act No. 46 of 1968), and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor of Punjab is pleased to prohibit the sale, stock, distribution and use of all types of formulations of the insecticides, indicated in the Table given below, in the State of Punjab for a period of sixty days on the paddy crop, including Basmati, from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, namely: -

TABLE

| Serial No. | Name of Insecticide |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Acephate |
| 2 | Triazophos |
| 3 | Thiamethoxam |
| 4 | Carbendazim |
| 5 | Tricyclazole |
| 6 | Buprofezin |
| 7 | Carbofuron |
| 8 | Propiconazole |
| 9 | Thiophinate Methyl |

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