

Pesticides Management Bill

July 15, 2020

The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020 was introduced in Rajya Sabha. It seeks to **regulate the manufacture, import, sale, storage, distribution, use, and disposal of pesticides**, in order to ensure the availability of safe pesticides and minimise the risk to humans, animals, and environment. The Bill seeks to **replace the Insecticides Act, 1968**.

Features of Pesticides Management Bill

- The bill **defines a pest** as any species of animal, plant, or pathogenic agent that is unwanted, or injurious to plants, humans, animals, and the environment. A **pesticide is any substance of chemical or biological origin intended for preventing or destroying any pest** in agriculture, industry, public health, pest control operations, or for ordinary use.
- The central government will constitute the **Central Pesticides Board** to advise the central and state governments on scientific and technical matters arising under the Act.
- . It will advise the central government in formulating standards and best practices for pesticide manufacturers, laboratories, and pest control operators
- . working conditions and training of workers
- . recall and disposal of pesticides
- . frame model protocols to deal with poisoning cases due to pesticides
- Persons seeking to import or manufacture a pesticide for ordinary use, agriculture, industry, pest control, or public health, are required to **obtain a certificate of registration for the pesticide from the Registration**

Committee. The Committee will be constituted by the central government.

- The Committee will **evaluate** the information submitted in the application about the pesticide **on factors such as safety, efficacy, necessity, end-use, risks, and availability of safer alternatives.** It will not register a pesticide if the applicant submits false or misleading information, or if the maximum limits for the residue of the pesticide on crops and commodities are not specified under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.**
- If the central government considers it necessary or expedient to secure the distribution and availability of pesticides at fair prices, it may constitute an **authority to regulate their price** in a manner as it may prescribe.
- The central and state governments may, by notification, prohibit the distribution, sale, or use of a pesticide or a specified batch in an area, up to a period of one year. **Pesticides can be prohibited** if:

. they pose a risk to, or can adversely impact human health, other living organisms, or the environment

. they pose a barrier in international trade of agriculture commodities