Pesticides Management Bill, 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Goverenment policies and interventions*

Why in News?

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025, for consultation with all stakeholders and the public.

- **Aim -** To modernise and replace the outdated ***Insecticides Act, 1968*** and its rules.
- To ensure the supply of quality and safe pesticides for farmers.
- To decriminalize petty offences for Ease of Living as well as Ease of Doing Business.
- **Key provisions - Comprehensive regulation** - Covers the full life cycle of pesticides manufacture, import, labelling, sale, transport, use and disposal under a unified framework.
- **Centralized authority** - Establishment of a Central Pesticides Board (advisory) and a Registration Committee (executive) to scrutinize and approve pesticide registrations.
- **Mandatory registration -** No pesticide can be manufactured or imported without prior registration, with time-bound decisions (12–18 months).
- **Digital governance -** Use of digital platforms for registration, licensing, inspections and record-keeping to streamline compliance and reduce delays.
- **Quality assurance -** Mandatory accreditation of pesticide testing laboratories to ensure only quality-certified products are available to farmers.
- **Control on spurious products -** Stricter penalties and controls to deter fake, substandard or banned pesticides, including provisions for compounding of offences.
- **State role -** State authorities can define enhanced penalties within the framework, balancing enforcement with local needs.

- **Institutional Framework - Central Pesticides Board-** An advisory body including representatives from Health, Environment, and Agriculture ministries to set safety and disposal standards.
- **Registration Committee-** The executive authority responsible for evaluating pesticide applications via mandatory digital modes based on safety and efficacy.
- **Pesticide Inspectors -** Empowered to enter premises, seize stocks, and stop the sale of unsafe products for ***up to 60 days*** pending laboratory results.

References

1. PIB | Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025
2. The Week | Pesticides Management Bill, 2025

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