

# 'Draft pesticide Bill will hurt farmers'

## Clause on listing ingredients dropped

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A group of Indian pesticide manufacturers says that the proposed Pesticides Management Bill, which is likely to be finalised this month, will harm both farmers and the domestic industry by not making it mandatory for the active ingredients of pesticides to be revealed in the registration process.

"The draft Bill will allow importers to register ready-made products without registering the active ingredients," said Pradip Dave, President of the Pesticides Manufacturers and Formulators Association of India.

He said that this would prevent Indian manufacturers from registering 'me-too registrations', and producing pesticides at a cheaper rate. "This means they [fo-



Experts say the move will make pesticides costlier.

reign manufacturers] will get total monopoly and can loot the Indian farmer."

Mr. Dave pointed out that farmers were able to buy a pesticide from Indian manufacturers at less than half the rate as sold by importers or multi-national corporations. For example, Bispyribac sodium, a herbicide for paddy, was introduced in the market at ₹8,000 per kg by an MNC but is now sold by Indian manufacturers at ₹3,500/kg.