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Q39

In India, the use of carbofuran, methyl parathion, phorate and triazophos is viewed with apprehension. These chemicals are used as (a) pesticides in agriculture (b) preservatives in processed foods (c) fruit-ripening agents (d) moisturizing agents in cosmetics Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) Pesticides in agriculture. Carbofuran, methyl parathion, phorate and triazophos are highly hazardous insecticides/nematicides; India has restricted or banned several of them. That agricultural-pesticide identity is the official key.

(b)

(b) Preservatives in processed foods. These organophosphate/carbamate names are not food preservatives, so this is not the key.

(c)

(c) Fruit-ripening agents. Ripening debates are about calcium carbide or ethylene, not this list, so this is not the key.

(d)

(d) Moisturising agents in cosmetics. Unrelated chemistry, so this is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) pesticides in agriculture. The four names are insecticide actives viewed with apprehension because of toxicity to farmers, birds and aquatic life. They are not preservatives, ripeners or cosmetic humectants. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Carbofuran

Carbamate insecticide, highly toxic to birds

Methyl parathion

Organophosphate; restricted

Phorate / triazophos

OP insecticides in the same concern set

Askable twin

Anupam Verma committee reviews of 66 pesticides

Stockholm/Rotterdam

Neighbour treaties on hazardous chemicals

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