

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
PRESENCE OF PESTICIDES IN FRUITS .

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Shri M.P. Achuthan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study report released by the Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) revealing the presence of high levels of pesticides, endosulfan in fruits available in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that nearly 400 people died and thousands have been incapacitated due to the ill effects of endosulfan in Kerala leading to a ban on use of the pesticide in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what is Government's reaction to the findings and what action is proposed to be taken to reduce the use of endosulfan in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b) Yes. VOICE in the October, 2010 edition of magazine 'Consumer Voice' has published a report that inter-alia states that 79 samples of different fruits, namely Apple, Banana, Cherry, Chikoo, Grapes, Khumani, Kiwi, Litchi, Mango, Musk melon, Papaya, Peach Pears, Pineapple, Plum, Pomegranate and Watermelon were collected from different localities of Delhi, Kolkata and Bangaluru. These samples were tested for the presence of 106 pesticides, permitted/banned for use in the country, for identification and quantification of pesticides for determining their presence far beyond safety levels. Out of 79 samples of various fruits analysed in the study, only one sample of fruit (cherry) was found to be not conforming to the Tolerance Limits for Endosulfan as prescribed in the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

(c) to (e) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.