

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 273
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2015**

PRESENCE OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN VEGETABLES

273. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether harmful chemicals are present in alarmingly high doses in food items across the country, with the highest number of failed samples being that of vegetables;
- (b) if so, whether it was the duty of the State and its authorities to achieve an appropriate level for protection of human life and health;
- (c) whether there has been an almost two fold increase in the number of vegetables, fruits, meat and spices samples containing pesticides above the permitted level in the last six years; and
- (d) the stringent action taken to provide safe food to the people of India?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a)& (b): While the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has specified regulations and laid down maximum residue limits/tolerance limits for various pesticides, the implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act and Regulations thereunder primarily rest with the State/UT Governments. No separate data regarding samples of vegetables having been drawn and analysed for presence of chemicals beyond permissible limits, is maintained centrally by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

(c): The Government is aware of reports appearing in the media regarding higher presence of pesticides in fruits and vegetables. However, no separate data in this regard has been compiled at the national level.

(d): Random sampling and testing of food products is done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs for ensuring compliance with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder. In cases, where samples are found to be not conforming to the prescribed standards/limits, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

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