

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1885
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH AUGUST, 2025**

RISING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD

1885 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Minister of State for Health recently emphasised the need for a nationwide strategy to ensure stricter monitoring of pesticide residues in food, if so, the timeline and roadmap for formulation and implementation of such a strategy;
- (b) the steps taken by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to regulate and monitor pesticide contamination in food items, including fruits, vegetables, pulses, and milk; and
- (c) the number of food samples tested for pesticide and chemical residues in the last three years and the percentage of samples found non-compliant during this period?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notifies the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of pesticides on food commodities under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011 after performing risk assessment.

FSSAI through its regional offices & State/UT Food Safety Authorities undertakes regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection, random sampling of food products and targeted enforcement drives especially during festive/peak demand seasons, to ensure compliance with Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 Rules & Regulations made thereunder.

FSSAI under National Annual Surveillance Plan (NASP) has been conducting nationwide monthly surveillance drives on various food commodities to assess the compliance of food commodities with the applicable provisions of FSS Regulations. If any non-compliances are detected during surveillance, enforcement sampling is subsequently carried out on the non-compliant samples. In cases, where the enforcement samples are found non-conforming, regulatory actions are initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) as per the provisions of FSS Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

(c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) funded a project “Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level” (MPRNL) to monitor the pesticide residues in various food commodities. Under the MPRNL project, samples of food commodities like vegetables, fruits, spices, cereals, pulses, herbs, fish/marine, meat and egg, tea and milk are collected from different parts of the country by 35 participating laboratories and analysed by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited testing laboratories for the possible presence of pesticide residues.

During 2022-25, a total of 86,401 samples of various food commodities were collected and analysed for pesticide residues, out of which 2.8% samples were found exceeding Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) as notified by FSSAI.
