

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1469
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

PESTICIDE RESIDUE IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

1469 MS. SWATI MALIWAL

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of growing public concern regarding the presence of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables sold in retail markets and their adverse health impact;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of pesticide residue levels in fruits and vegetables produced in the country and if so, details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen awareness among farmers regarding safe and judicious use of pesticides and promote sustainable alternatives through incentives; and
- (d) the steps being taken to enhance consumer confidence by improving food safety and quality across the agricultural supply chain?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) : The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing the “Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level” (MPRNL) project to assess the levels of pesticide residues in vegetables, fruits, spices, cereals, pulses, herbs, tea and water etc. by collecting samples from retail outlets, wholesale markets, Co-operatives, Agricultural Produce Market (APMC) markets, farm gate and organic outlets. These samples which are analysed by the 40 participating laboratories for the possible presence of pesticide residues.

During last five years i.e. 2021-26, 85,854 samples of fruits and vegetables were collected under MPRNL Project from different parts of the country and tested for pesticide residues. Pesticide residues above the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) fixed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) were detected in 1,939 (2.2%) samples only.