

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1312
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2018

HIGH LEVEL OF PESTICIDES IN VEGETABLES, FRUITS, MEAT AND SPICES

1312. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints with regard to having more than the prescribed level of pesticides in vegetables, fruits, meat and spices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether news reported with reference to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare stated that the level of pesticides residue in vegetables, fruits, meats and spices has increased to double the prescribed standards in the last six years;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any directives in this regard and has also formulated any scheme to take action against the farmers using pesticides more than the prescribed limit and using chemicals to artificially increase the size of vegetables and other food products; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken to prevent such produce from entering the market?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" (MPRNL) scheme, under which food commodities are collected and analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During 2012-18, a total of 1,21,944 samples have been collected and analyzed, out of which 2,878 (2.4 %) samples were found exceeding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Maximum

Residue Level (MRL). The details of the vegetables, fruits, meats and spices samples analyzed in the last six years is at Annexure I. There is no report with this Ministry that levels of pesticides residue in vegetables, fruits, meats and spices have increased to double of the prescribed standards in the last six years. The annual reports of MPRNL are shared with the States for taking corrective measures. In addition, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is propagating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an alternative to chemical pesticides. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach which aims to keep pest population below economic thresholds level by employing available alternate pest control strategies and techniques viz. preventive measures, cultural, mechanical and biological control. The Department has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) across the Country. These CIPMCs, inter alia, conduct Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) to sensitize farmers on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, and safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides as a last resort as per approved labels and leaflets. Furthermore, Regular advisories on pest management are being shared with the States for their timely dissemination to the farmers through their extension functionaries. The State Governments through various forums such as Zonal Conferences and National Conference are requested to exhort their extension functionaries to educate and impart training to farmers on efficacious and sustainable pest management strategies and approaches.

Details of vegetable samples analysed under MPRNL (2012-18)

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples above FSSAI MRL
2012-13	7570	207 (2.7%)
2013-14	7591	192 (2.5%)
2014-15	10593	306 (2.9%)
2015-16	12035	329 (2.7%)
2016-17	11955	256 (2.1%)
2017-18	12821	246 (1.9%)
Grand Total	62565	1536 (2.5%)

Details of fruits samples analysed under MPRNL (2012-18)

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples above FSSAI MRL
2012-13	2031	21 (1.0 %)
2013-14	2235	31 (1.4 %)
2014-15	2239	40 (1.8 %)
2015-16	2364	27 (1.1 %)
2016-17	2173	58 (2.7 %)
2017-18	2274	25 (1.1 %)
Grand Total	13316	202 (1.5 %)

Details of meat samples analysed under MPRNL (2012-18)

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples above FSSAI MRL
2012-13	439	0
2013-14	435	0
2014-15	444	0
2015-16	402	0
2016-17	417	0
2017-18	374	0
Grand Total	2511	0

Details of spices samples analysed under MPRNL (2012-18)

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples above FSSAI MRL
2012-13	1119	93 (8.3 %)
2013-14	1160	100 (8.6 %)
2014-15	1299	106 (8.2 %)
2015-16	1390	86 (6.2 %)
2016-17	1592	87 (5.5 %)
2017-18	1858	150 (8.1 %)
Grand Total	8418	622 (7.4%)