

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1665**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019

**USE OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN CEREALS, PULSES AND VEGETABLES**

1665. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government carries out the screening of various pesticides and harmful chemicals being regularly used in cultivation of cereals, pulses and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has examined the complaints pertaining to presence of harmful chemicals in the food items, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any steps to prevent the use of harmful substances/pesticides/ chemicals in the food items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Technical review of registered pesticides is being conducted from time to time for their continue use. Based on the recommendations of such technical reviews, the Department has banned 40 pesticides and 4 formulations for use in the country. 2 pesticides have been banned for use but continue to be manufactured for export. 18 pesticides were never allowed for registration due to their toxicity. In addition, 8 pesticides have been withdrawn for use in the country and 9 pesticides have been restricted for use. Further several label claims of pesticides have also been withdrawn.

(c) to (e): As informed by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), the Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)/ tolerance limits for various Pesticides and antibiotic residues in food commodities are fixed under Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 which are reviewed from time to time. To ensure that the food items do not possess harmful chemicals, apart from MRLs of harmful chemicals specified under Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 and amendments thereof such as metals, antibiotics, insecticides, other substances like aflatoxin, melamine etc., FSSAI has laid down maximum limits of chemicals such as preservatives, additives including permitted colours etc. in Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011

Contd..2/-

The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act 2006, rules and regulations made thereunder primarily lies with States/UTs. In order to ensure the availability of good quality food including cereals, pulses, vegetables etc. to the consumers and for keeping a check on food adulteration, State food authorities have been advised to keep a strict vigil by regularly drawing food samples from all sources viz. manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of FSS Act, 2006. Accordingly, States/UTs are conducting regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products in case where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act 2006.

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