

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1270
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
USE OF OXYTOCIN IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oxytocin injections are being openly administered into fruits and vegetables in order to increase their size thereby making the fruits and vegetables poisonous;
- (b) if so, the effect of such injections on public health;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take appropriate steps to check the use and sale of such injections;
- (d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to enact necessary legislation for this purpose; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a): Media reports indicate that the hormone is being used by farmers in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab on certain vegetables like cucurbits and pumpkin to increase the size and weight of vegetables.
- (b): Indiscriminate use of oxytocin may cause health hazards if taken through vegetables over a period of time.
- (c) to (e): To prevent misuse by farmers this drug has been notified as a Schedule-H drug and can be sold only against the prescription of the registered medical/veterinary practitioner. It has been made mandatory through Gazette notification to market Oxytocin injection in single unit blister packs only. Instructions have also been issued to all State Drug Controllers to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin.