

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010
PESTICIDES IN IMPORTED WHEAT
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the wheat imported from Australia recently has been found to contain pesticides many times higher than the permissible limits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard to check recurrence of such incidents; and
- (c) the action taken against the erring officials?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Customs authorities had seized 1250 tons of imported wheat from Australia at Chennai Port on suspicion of it containing pesticide beyond permissible level. This action was challenged in Madras High Court, which ordered for retesting of the wheat from all 50 containers through a Mumbai based agency. Redrawn samples were tested at Central Food Laboratory, Mysore and Pune. These tests found the wheat conforming to standards prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. Hence the consignment was released.