

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:22  
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010  
PESTICIDE RESIDUE IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
Thomas Shri P. T.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there are reports regarding presence of high level pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether any permissible limit has been prescribed for pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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) & (b): Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level" under which samples of various food commodities including vegetables and fruits are analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During the period April, 2007 to March, 2010, 14725 samples of fruits and vegetables were analyzed, of which 313 samples (2.1 %) had pesticide residues above Maximum Residue Limit prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954.

Government of India is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools focusing on safe, judicious and need based use of approved pesticides and other pest management practices.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for various pesticides in food articles, including fruits and vegetables have been prescribed.