

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4105

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2010

HEALTH HAZARDOUS ELEMENTS IN VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has laid down any norms in regard to the permissible limit of synthetic colours and toxic/chemical elements in vegetables and fruits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is lack of testing facilities to detect the presence of such health hazardous elements in fruits and vegetables in the country;
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether any directions have been received from the Delhi High Court in the matter; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the follow up action taken/proposed thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b): As per the Prevention of Food Adulteration (P.F.A.) Rules 1955 use of synthetic colours in vegetables and fruits is prohibited. Rule 65 of the P.F.A. Rules provides maximum tolerance limits of certain pesticide residues in vegetables & fruits.

(C) & (d): 72 food testing laboratories of states/UTs working under P.F.A. Act, 1954, are adequate to analyse the samples of all food articles including vegetables and fruits. The upgradation of facilities of food testing laboratories is a continuous and ongoing process, depending on the needs of particular laboratories.

(e): No such directions have been received in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(f): Does not arise.