

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:180

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

USE OF BANNED CHEMICALS IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Alagiri Shri S. ;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the practice of using banned chemicals and hormones for artificial ripening and to increase the size and weight of fruits and vegetables is prevalent;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of persons booked/ convicted during the said period indicating the action taken against them, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (c): There are reports in the media that some hazardous chemicals are being used for increasing the size and weight of fruits and vegetables. Implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules rests with State/Union Territory Governments. Commissioners of Food Safety in States/UTs have been requested to keep a strict vigil on use of hazardous chemicals for ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of the Act/Rules. The details of cases, persons booked and convicted are not maintained by Central Government.

Analysis of samples of agricultural commodities, including fruits and vegetables, collected under the central sector scheme of 'Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level' does not indicate use of any pesticide banned under the Insecticides Act, 1968.