

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1503

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011

PESTICIDES IN CONSUMABLE ITEMS

Ananth Kumar Shri ;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Sharma Dr. Arvind Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has laid down any standards with regard to maximum level of pesticides in various consumable items including fruits, vegetables, milk and foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken for its proper compliance;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the permitted level of pesticides in these items to bring it at par with international level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the year in which the last review was done for the purpose;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the level of pesticides in these items including milk sold by Mother Dairy and tap water provided by Delhi Jal Board; and
- (f) if so, the details alongwith the findings thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): Under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, the permissible Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for various pesticides in various food articles including fruits, vegetables, milk and food grains have been laid down under rule 65 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The States/ UTs are responsible for implementation of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in the country. They have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the levels of pesticides in food articles.

(c) & (d): Fixation of Maximum Residues Limits of pesticides in different food articles is an ongoing process. Maximum Residues Limits for pesticides on the basis risk assessment are recommended/prescribed within safe level of daily intake on the basis of indigenous residue data generated as per Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), average food consumption in the country, average body weight and Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) established on the basis of toxicological evaluation of the pesticides.

The Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) fixed at International Level by the Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation/World Health Organisation (FAO/WHO) Codex Alimentarius Commission are also taken into consideration as a guiding factor.

The level of pesticides permitted at international level in other countries may not be applicable to India in all cases due to their different food habits, dietary intakes, Agricultural Practices and agro-climatic conditions and optimum use of pesticides for controlling pests on the crops in those countries.

(e) & (f): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has informed that during April, 2008 to March 2010, a total of 8228 samples of the vegetables and 4156 samples of fruits were collected and analysed for the presence of pesticides residues across various parts of the country. Pesticides residues were detected in 848 samples of vegetables and 346 samples of fruits, out of which 201 samples of vegetables and 38 samples of fruits were found to contain the residues above their Maximum Residues Limit (MRL) prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

As per information made available by Government of NCT Delhi, no study to find out level of pesticides in milk sold by Mother Dairy in Delhi has been conducted. Water supplied by Delhi Jal Board does not come under the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules.