

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3215
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
USE OF PESTICIDES IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether high pesticides residues are found in fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any permissible limit prescribed for pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute a statutory authority for ensuring the supply of safe food stuffs, vegetables and fruits; and
- (f) 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): No, Madam. 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 have been analysed for the presence of pesticide residues. During April, 2007 to March, 2009, only 2.3% of the samples of fruits and vegetables analysed had pesticide residues above Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act.

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

(e) & (f): The food Safety & Standards Authority of India has been established under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.