

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5137

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

PESTICIDES RESIDUES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any programme to monitor the pesticides residues presence in food, crops, soil, water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such information is being provided in the public domain through websites to warn public not to consume such food or to warn farmers not to use such pesticides;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to implement any such warning system in the public domain so that consumers are aware and they can avoid such foods; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(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 rice, wheat, vegetables, fruits and water are analyzed for the presence of pesticide residues. During the period April, 2010 to March, 2011, 15321 samples of food commodities were analyzed, of which 188 samples (1.23%) had pesticide residues above Maximum Residue Limit prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954.

(c) & (d): The pesticide residue data generated under the scheme are shared with State Governments and concerned Ministries/Organizations to initiate the corrective action for judicious and proper use of pesticides on crops with an integrated Pest Management approach and to generate awareness amongst farmers. Government of India is also 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.

(e) & (f): The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 rests with States/Union Territory Governments whose functionaries draw random samples of food articles regularly and take penal action in cases where the samples are found not conforming to the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.