

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some farmers are using certain chemicals to ripen the fruits and vegetables artificially and to give them fresh look which is injurious to health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these chemicals are banned in other countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Madam, Plant growth regulators (PGRs), which fall under the definition of 'insecticide' under Section 3 (c) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 are registered for use in the country. These are basically used for better fruit setting, breaking bud dormancy, alternate bearing, for enhancing yield by increasing the fruit size. For post harvest treatment for uniform ripening the following PGR is registered:

Ethephon 39% SL:

Mango - to breaking alternate bearing and to increase yield, post harvest treatment for uniform ripening.

Coffee (Arabica and Robusta) - for uniform ripening of berries.

Tomato - post harvest treatment for uniform ripening.

(c): No, Madam. Ethephon is not banned in other countries.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.