

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3608  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013  
TOXIC CONTENT IN VEGETABLES  
Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Rajee

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that vegetables grown alongside the river Yamuna in Delhi are high in toxic content;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a)&(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme "Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level (MPRNL)" since 2005-06 to test pesticide residues in food commodities and environmental samples like soil and water with participation of various laboratories representing various Ministries and State Agricultural Universities across the country.

During the period April 2010 to December 2013, a total of 3702 vegetable samples of cabbage, cauliflower, okra, tomato, brinjal, capsicum, cucumber, bottle gourd, pea, curry leaves, coriander leaves and chilli were collected from APMC markets, Mother Dairy (Safal) and retail outlets of various parts of Delhi and analysed for the possible residues of pesticides. Residues were detected above MRL values in 154 samples. However, as the samples have not been collected directly from alongside the river Yamuna for testing, it is not possible to conclude that the vegetables grown alongside river Yamuna are high in toxic content.

(c): The Government is popularizing the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through a Central Sector Scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" which includes cultural, mechanical, biological and other methods of pest control and emphasizes safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government has established 31 Central IPM Centres in 28 State and one UT. The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) in farmers' fields. The basic aim of FFS is to train the farmers on the latest IPM technology so that they are able to take decision in pest management operation. Besides, large number of locally available bio-control agents are augmented from field to field based on the requirement. Major emphasis is given on judicious use of chemical pesticide as a last resort and safety in use of pesticides, alternate tools for pest management viz; cultural, physical, mechanical methods of pest control as well as use of biopesticides and biocontrol agents, effects of pesticides on natural enemies of pests, do's and don'ts of pesticide use including proper application equipment and the technique. FFSs are run by trained personnel to train 30 farmers and 5 Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) for 14 weeks. At the end of training, Kisan Mela is organized at the FFS site to popularize the IPM approach among neighbouring farmers.

So far, upto the year 2011-12 the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage(DPPQ&S), an attached organisation of Ministry of Agriculture, has organized 13,991 Nos. of Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) wherein 57,962 Agriculture / Horticulture Extension Officers and 4,20,720 farmers in different crops have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops.

To encourage use of biological agents including plant products and to meet the farmers requirement of these products against crop pests of agricultural/horticultural crops, various biological control agents are registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Besides "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India" there are other schemes of the Government like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Extension Programme under which farmers are being imparted awareness training.