

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3854  
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014  
ARSENIC IN PADDY  
Ahmed Shri Sultan

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

- (a) whether there are reports indicating the presence of arsenic in paddy grains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any programme for creating awareness among paddy cultivators regarding toxic free cultivation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. There have been sporadic reports of presence of arsenic in paddy grains. As per one published research report, concentration of arsenic in rice grain varied from 1.48 to 6.87  $\mu\text{g}$  per kg, while in another report, arsenic content in paddy grains ranged from 0.10 - 0.89 mg/kg. These are less than the permissible limit of arsenic in rice, which, according to WHO, is 1.0mg/kg.

(c) & (d): Various mitigation methods have been suggested by the State Agriculture Universities to minimize arsenic uptake by rice, including changing paddy water management, selection and breeding of low arsenic rice cultivars, use of silicon fertilisers, zinc sulphate and iron sulphate and increased use of organic manure.