

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Pesticide Mixed Vegetables and Fruits
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Kerala is solely dependent on neighbouring States for the availability of fruits and vegetables for its domestic use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that there is accusation of usage of large scale pesticides on the fruits and vegetables being supplied to the State leading health risks; and
- (d) if so, the measures are being taken by the Government to ensure availability of healthy fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices to consumers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

???? ?????????? ??? ?????? ??????? (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): As per information provided by Government of Kerala, schemes including Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and State Plan schemes etc have increased production of vegetables and fruits in recent times in the state. A portion of the requirement of cool season vegetables is being met from the production in Idukki district. A major share of the requirement of cool season vegetables such as onion, potato, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower etc. is coming from outside states as only Idukki district is climatically suitable for cultivation of cool season crops.

(c) & (d): As per information provided by Government of Kerala, reports of the Pesticides Residue Analysis Lab under ICAR at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Kerala Agricultural University, Thiruvananthapuram, indicate that pesticide residues have been identified in some vegetable samples coming from other states. Measures being taken by Government of Kerala to ensure availability of fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices include implementation of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the state promotion of organic farming through adoption of Good Agricultural Practices, procurement of fruits and vegetables through HortiCorp, a governmental agency and through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
