

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

PESTICIDE IN FOOD ITEMS

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether high level of pesticides have been found in samples of foods, fruits and vegetables being sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Food Safety Authority of India regularly monitors samples of foods, fruits and vegetables for pesticides and other chemicals;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof indicating the number of instances where the foods, fruits and vegetables have been found to contain chemicals over and above prescribed by Food Safety Authority of India; and
- (e) the action plan formulated by the Government to deal with the issue of pesticides in foods, fruits and vegetables?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has not received any report about such incident.. However, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has issued a circular to the Principal Secretaries (Health) and Food Safety Commissioners of all States and UTs highlighting the desirability of periodical inspections and monitoring of major fruit and vegetable markets, soft drinks and ready to serve beverages.

(c) to (e): The enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and the Rules and Regulations thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments who undertake surveillance, monitoring & sampling of food products. The Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 prescribe maximum limits of pesticides for all food products including fruits and vegetables. Random Samples of food items are drawn by the State Food Safety Officers and sent to the recognised laboratories for analysis. In cases, where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, penal action is initiated against the offenders. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that no complaints have come to its notice in the recent past.