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Title : Regarding the need to follow-up action taken by Government on the JPC Report on Pesticide residues in beverages.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): I stand here to refer to the JPC report on pesticide residues in beverages as well as on its action taken report placed in this house in February 2004. It may be recalled that amongst its key recommendations was "Fixing stringent standards for carbonated beverages". The committee had observed, "It is prudent to seek complete freedom from pesticide residues in sweetened aerated water". The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in its report said that, "The matter has been referred to the National Level Expert Group to guide the Pesticide Residues Sub-Committee of Central Committee of Food Standards for detailed examinations and recommendation." Again, the action taken report stated that, the Indian Council for Medical Research is preparing a research project for collection of data as JPC emphasized for a vast database on pesticide residue. Two years have already passed but there is no further feedback on this issue. In the mean time there is report of suspension of 1.4 million dollar contract of Coca Cola with the Michigan University. The suspension follows a yearlong campaign by students and environmental groups who have charged the Coca Cola Company with depleting the water table in India and discharging harmful sludge. In view of above, the Nation demands that the Government should come up open on the actions taken so far after February, 2004.