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Title: Regarding smooth trade of vegetables from Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Sir, the Agriculture Department of our Tamil Nadu Government under the able leadership of our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma upgraded and modernized its testing laboratories to analyze pesticide residues in agricultural produce. Also, the Government instructed the farmers to produce prescriptions from horticultural or agricultural officers to purchase pesticides.

There have been no complaints about the quality and excess pesticide levels in vegetables from Tamil Nadu. The farmers here use only the permissible pesticides in low quantities.

The Kerala Government has put curbs on traders procuring vegetables from Tamil Nadu by alleging that they found pesticide levels in the vegetables were higher than the permissible level. Besides banning vegetables, the State has also made it mandatory for the vegetable and fruit traders from other States to register or get a licence.

The ban on vegetables from Tamil Nadu has come as a rude shock for the farmers of Tamil Nadu as they fear it would wreck their livelihood. The Central Government should evolve a suitable mechanism for smooth trade of vegetables from Tamil Nadu and protect the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers who sell their produce in Kerala.