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title: Issue regarding indiscriminate sale of food items contaminated by the excessive use of pesticides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. With your kind permission, I wish to raise a very serious issue relating to the indiscriminate sale of vegetables and fruits, pulses, cereals, etc., contaminated by the excessive use of pesticides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers. Lifestyle diseases are increasing day by day and people are exposed to fatal diseases like cancer, kidney ailments, etc. Various scientific studies go to show that the use of such fruits and vegetables are also causing developmental problems and lower IQ among the children.

Kerala, as you know, was once acclaimed as the model for health care in the whole of the country. It is unfortunate that today Kerala has an increasing number of cancer patients. Kerala is a consumer State. Almost all the consumer goods are coming from across the border. Vegetables coming there are highly contaminated with dangerous levels of pesticides and insecticides. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister of Health to address the issue on a war footing in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs so that the people are protected from the dangers of consuming contaminated foods and vegetables.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Prof. K.V Thomas,

Shri Rajeev Satav,

Shri D.K. Suresh and

Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.