

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
FOOD SAFETY LEVELS
A.K. PREMAJAM

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

- (a) whether there is any comprehensive system to monitor the food safety levels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ICMR report in 1993 exposed alarming level of contaminants in food;
- (d) whether the report also included recommendations for drastic changes in the Government policies;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the recommendations were considered for implementation;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): In order that the contaminants in food products do not exceed the safe limits, the Ministry of Health has prescribed Maximum tolerance limits for pesticides and heavy metals in food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The State/Union Territories Governments are responsible for monitoring and implementation of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in the country.

In addition surveys to study the presence of pesticide residues have been conducted from time to time. During the period, 1979-2001, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have conducted five surveys to ascertain presence of residues of different pesticides in food commodities. From 1992-2001 the All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues also monitored this issue. The Ministry of Agriculture is now launching a system to monitor pesticide residues at national level.

(c)to(h): A study on food contaminants in various food was conducted by ICMR in 1993. The report was not found to be accurate in analysis interpretation, method of reporting and conclusions drawn. In view of this, the report was withdrawn in 1994.