

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:704

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

HIGH LEVEL OF DIOXINS IN EGGS

Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Manoj Dr. K.S.;Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a study conducted by an Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) called `Toxics Links` have come out with a report which bring out that eggs produced in India contain dioxins as reported in The Hindu dated October 18, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) its likely adverse effect on the health of the eggs consuming population;
- (e) whether there is any guideline for breeding and feeding of chickens in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep World Health Organisation (WHO) criteria in the country;

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISHARAD PAWAR)

(a)to(d): Samples of free-range chicken eggs collected by the Non Governmental Organisation, `Toxics Link`, from a source in close proximity to the medical waste incinerator of the Queen Mary's Hospital, Lucknow were reportedly found to contain dioxins, which may cause adverse health effects. The Government has taken note of these findings.

(e)&(f): The Government has published poultry feed standards for different age groups and different species. These are based on codex standards, industry experience and inputs from academic institutions. The central and State Government agencies also provide guidance on best practices for poultry breeding.

(g): Not applicable.