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Title: Need to strengthen food safety and enforcing standards.

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SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The 2014-15 report on monitoring pesticides residues at the national level shows that vegetables accounting for over 56 per cent of the samples, had pesticides above the maximum residue level set by the food regulator. The Agriculture Ministry's report shows an almost two fold increase in the number of samples having pesticides above the permitted maximum reduce level in the vegetables, fruits, meat and spices in the past seven years.

Pesticides, including dangerous and banned pesticides, are being used many times above the permissible limit. They have made food products, vegetables, fruits etc. more of a health hazard than a boon. There is an urgent need for inspections and tests including strengthening the food safety and enforcing standards. Besides, there is also a need to widen the scope of food safety, enforcing standards and bringing them at par with international standards.

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