

Monitoring of food safety levels

127. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: 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 it is a fact that the ICMR report in 1993 exposed alarming level of contaminants in food;

(d) whether the report also included recommendations for drastic changes in 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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) To ensure food safety the standards of various foods including use of additives, are specified under PFA Rules, 1955. 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 aflatoxin and heavy metals in food products under the prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The States/UTs Government are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955.

Government of India has commissioned various surveys to study the present of pesticide residues 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 for presence of residues of different pesticides on food commodities. The All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues is also monitoring pesticide residues on food commodities from 1992-2001. In addition the Ministry of Agriculture is launching a system of monitoring of pesticide residues at national level.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) to (h) A study on food contaminants in various food was conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The report prepared by the Multi-centric Study (along with recommendations) was not found to be accurate in its analysis and interpretation, as also conclusions drawn and the method of reporting. In view of this, the report had been withdrawn in 1994.

National Population Policy

128. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Population Policy in place so as to control and curb the population explosion in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the policy is operative;

(c) whether there is any monitoring agency in place to oversee the operation of the policy; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far. in keeping burgeoning increase in population in check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted the National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which envisages a set of National socio- demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 including attainment of total fertility rate of 2.1. The long term goal is to achieve a stable population in the country by 2045.

(c) The National Commission on Population (NCP) has been constituted on 11th May 2000 to review and monitor the implementation of the National Population Policy.

(d) Achieving population stabilization is a slow process. The implementation of the various policies outlined in the National Population Policy is likely to accelerate the declining trend in demographic growth brought out by Census 2001

As a result of the various steps taken by Government the two important demographic indicator *viz.* Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate