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Pulses, beans imported into India safe for consumption: FSSAI

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NEW DELHI: Pulses and beans imported into India are safe for consumption with no presence of glyphosate, the country's top food regulator said putting to rest concerns about contamination of these commodities with harmful toxins.

"There is no concern regarding the presence of glyphosate in these commodities. This is based on results of testing of these products over the past one month," the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said in a statement on Thursday.

Following concerns about presence of glyphosate in imported pulses, the regulator had ordered testing of imported pulses such as dry beans, lentils, soya bean and peas to check presence of toxic herbicide glyphosate – used by farmers in some countries to prevent weeds in crop.

FSSAI had also asked its import offices at ports to start monitoring for presence of glyphosate for pulses and beans last month.

Pulses and beans are imported into India mainly through Mumbai, Chennai and Tuticorin.

However, the regulator will continue to monitor pulses for glyphosate for some more time till it is established for sure that there are no residues of glyphosate in imported pulses, FSSAI chief executive Pawan Agarwal said.

Analysis of the data collected about imported pulses through last one month shows out of 319 consignments tested, glyphosate residues were found in only 7 consignments and that too were within the prescribed maximum residue limits, the regulator said.

"So, ...there is no concern of any kind, as FSSAI authorised officers at ports are regularly monitoring the presence of glyphosate in pulses at the time of import before their clearances," the statement said.