

**PRESS NOTE**

**Surprise raids on Haat Bazaars**

The Officials of Food Safety Department carried out surprise raids at various Haat Bazaars in Port Blair and nearby areas on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019. During inspection several food business operators were found selling vegetables and fruits without registration certificates from Food Safety department. Altogether, 40 vegetables and fruit vendors were inspected. 21 samples of vegetables and 10 samples of fruits were collected for laboratory testing to detect the presence of pesticides/insecticides residues and artificial ripening agents.

The cultivators are advised to use recommended doses of fertilizers, insecticides and weedicides. Avoid excessive use of fertilizers, insecticides and weedicides. Further the Agriculture department is also requested to generate awareness among the farmers to adopt safe farming practices and encourage organic farming.

The Department of Food Safety is committed to provide safe, wholesome and nutritious food to the general public. Hence, the general public is requested to make complaints if any, over phone No. 9434280018, 231024, 234593 District Office control room toll free No. 1070.

Sd/-

Joint Commissioner (Food Safety)